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ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
(HABITAT II)

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda
Draft Statement of Principles and
Global Plan of Action

COMPILATION OF COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE HABITAT AGENDA FROM WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Note by the Secretariat

This document presents substantive comments, as they were received, from within the United Nations system on the *Draft Statement of Principles and Commitments and Global Plan Action: The Habitat Agenda* which was prepared by the Informal Drafting Group of the Preparatory Committee at its second intersessional meeting in Paris, 9-13 October 1995.

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I. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARIAT AND OTHER OFFICES

A. *Department for Development Support and Management Services (UDDSMS)*
Division for Environment Management and Social Development

< General comments >

It is unfortunate that water in the urban context is not treated as a separate theme and is "literally lost" within environmental and health considerations. This occurs in spite of the fact that water will be the sole subject of a preparatory conference in Beijing to be held in early 1996.

< Specific comments >

[page 2, paragraph 9] add at the end of the paragraph:

improvement of living conditions, including a reasonable access to clean water and sanitation given the health risks attached to them.

[page 3, paragraph 16] add at the end:

"Greatest possible efficiency is required in the use of water and energy, including appropriate and safe reuse, recycling and conservation. Well-adapted technologies and know-how are essential to promote self-sufficiency, reduction of wastes and pollution loads and to support effective preparedness to natural and man-made disasters."

[page 4, paragraph 17] insert as follows:

... public health is protected, safety and security conditions are provided, functional housing as workplace for women are considered, social integration, respect for diversity, cultural identities, and traditional, spiritual and religious values,...

[page 5, paragraph 25] add at the end, read (b) as:

(b) ... and the poor. "Promoting safety and equity in access in drinking water and sanitation, especially for under-privileged people in peri-urban areas."

[page 6, paragraph 27] add one sentence at the end of (c) and add (j):

(c) ... living environment for all "Promoting integrated water (resources and uses) planning to study in advance least cost alternatives to mobilize, with a long term view and at the appropriate scale (basins), finite fresh-water for the cities."
"(j) developing functional housing as workplace for women."

[page 8, paragraph 35] add at the end:

"because of the shear dimension of this monitoring effort and the great diversity of the required expertise, UNCHS shall seek synergies and cost effective partnerships, primarily with the specialized agencies of the UN system."

[page 17, paragraph 65] (a) should read:

"the continuous supply of an affordable access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water:"

[page 23, paragraph 83] insert as follows:

"It is necessary to promote land-use patterns that are a precondition for minimizing transport demands, saving energy, protecting water supply sources and open spaces.
[page 28, paragraph 98] rephrase as follows:

Recognizing the basic importance of water for any urban development: and for human consumption - inextricably linked with sanitation facilities -, special attention to water issues is required in urban, peri-urban and rural/urban contexts.

In partnership with other stake-holders and at the most appropriate level, governments are challenged (i) develop policies for equitable pricing and for integrated water-resources and uses -- planning and management to satisfy basic priority needs and to protect the quality and the productive capabilities of natural resources in urban areas and rural basins, (ii) to prepare institutional, legal and management reforms for the water-supply and sanitation sub-sector, (iii) to enhance and guarantee continuous and equitable access to water, sanitation and waste disposal facilities and (iv) to protect water resources against depletion and degradation of their quality. To this end, the Agenda recommends:

a) to assist Governments in developing sound and realistic national plans for water, and sanitation, with a special emphasis on integrating, phasing, costing and prioritizing the alternatives of development projects, at the appropriate scale, with a long term view of reasonable water demands;

b) to integrate urban water and sanitation development plans with land-use, housing, industrial and environmental plans and to improve their institutional and legal frameworks, in particular reflecting the "polluter pays" principle;

c) to promote decentralization of water-supply and sanitation and to verify the authority, the accountability and the financial viability of the responsible agencies;

d) to inform regularly public opinion on the water and sanitation services, on the tariffs and the full cost of subsidies (including opportunity costs), and on the need and means to conserve water;

e) to include water consumption and effluent load criteria in locating new industrial sites and to mobilize adequate funding for sanitary waste disposal facilities, including surface water drainage."

[page 29, paragraph 101] insert as follows:

(a) promote urban planning and design solutions incorporating rational uses of energy within the context of national energy *planning*;

(c) ... and use of energy such as methane generation from municipal waste, combined heating and cooling systems using waste heat recovery, co-generation of heating and electricity, efficient lighting in government and commercial buildings, and use of renewable sources and technologies;

(d) introduce or amend user charges and other demand-side-management (DSM) measures to promote the rational use of commercial, industrial and household energy;

(e) stimulate, through fiscal incentives and selected demonstration energy audits, energy-efficient and environment friendly technologies in the rehabilitation of existing industries and services and in the building of new ones;

(g) encourage the use of passive solar energy systems, ventilation and improved insulation of buildings, to reduce the consumption of energy in buildings;

eliminate "and" at the end of sentences (h) and add (j) - (n)

(j) support programmes, including inspection-maintenance programmes, for reduction of emissions of polluting gases originating from motorized vehicles;

(k) introduce measures to make available for household use technologies and fuels that minimize the emission of health-threatening gases and particulates;

(l) introduce policies and measures (e.g. the Grameen Bank rural credit mechanism) that promote the distribution of energy and energy-efficient devices specifically for income-generating economic activities for the inhabitants of rural communities, as well as peri-urban and urban agglomerations;

(m) introduce and encourage community-based public awareness programmes describing the long-term economic and environmental benefits of energy-efficient devices; and

(n) encourage the preservation, application and upgrading, where possible, of energy-saving traditional architectural designs and housing construction techniques appropriate to the local setting where these improve the current conditions of the urban and rural poor.

[page 31, paragraph 106] add at the end:

"In planning and designing for new housing, buildings and landscapes, traditional perspectives and patterns, cultural, spiritual and religious values should also be respected."

[page 32, paragraph 108] add the following sentence as (h) and (h) becomes (i).

"(h) ensure the consideration of traditional, cultural and spiritual values in planning of new settlements of housing/building projects."

[page 34, paragraph 121] read (a) as:

... and indigenous communities in the integrated planning exercise for a balanced and ecologically viable regional development (setting priorities in only the beginning of planning ...)

[page 35, paragraph 121] read (b) as:

(b) develop data bases by collecting all relevant information and make full use of geographical information systems ...

[page 35, paragraph 122] read (a) as:

(a) ... providing education and health facilities and access to water for agricultural production, strengthening technical infrastructure ...

[page 35, paragraph 123] beginning of the paragraph by:

"An integrated participatory approach

[page 35, paragraph 123] read (b) as:

..." to find integrated solutions for access to productive water, land use ..."

Areas of capacity and priority interests and commitments of DDSMS (Division I and II) in supporting the implementation of the HABITAT Agenda:

A. Division I: Division for Environment Management & Social Development

(a) energy sector - The Energy Planning & Management Branch is interested in collaborating on the Programme on "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world" and specifically in the subprogramme on "Sustainable energy use." This Branch has a staff of 11 professionals and advisors able to cover all energy sources (except nuclear), including new and renewable sources of energy. Technical assistance is rendered in the exploration, development and utilization of energy, including planning and management, legal and regulatory reform, investment promotion, pricing, energy efficiency programmes, rural electrification, and environmental impacts.

(b) minerals sector - The Natural Resources and Environment Planning and management Branch is keen on collaborating on the programme on "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world," specifically the sub-programmes "Sustainable land-use and balanced development" and "Balanced development of settlements in rural regions." This branch has a staff of five professionals and advisors who provide technical assistance in the planning and management of mineral resource development, including legal and regulatory reform, investment promotion, mining and the environment, and small-scale mining.

(c) water sector - The Natural Resources and Environment Planning and Management Branch could also collaborate on the programme "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world." This branch includes six professionals and advisors involved in technical assistance in the following areas:integrated planning and management of surfaces and ground-water resources, including legal, institutional and environmental aspects. In the area of urban and peri-urban potable water supply, DSMS has current experience in rehabilitation projects after man-made disasters and in the continuum of rural/urban supply of water resources.

(d) infrastructure sector - The Natural Resources and Environment Planning and Management Branch has the

professional capability to participate in areas related to design and improvement of, while keeping in mind traffic safety and environmental considerations: highways, roads and intersections; inland waterways; and railways. This includes the organization, improvement and maintenance of public transport on these lines of transportation.

A modern Infrastructure of a country, region, or a rural or urban community can efficiently only be planned, organized and maintained by the application of a Geographical Information Systems (GIS), which is based on geographical coordinates and clearly described parcels of land. The Branch can participate in setting up cadastral and legal land registration systems based on systematic land surveys and on a GIS system. The same system will be useful for other activities in the geographical area concerned such as rural and urban planning, organization, management and maintenance in numerous fields of activities such as public transportation, solid waste management, provision of lines for telephone, electricity, gas, water and sewage.

The Branch could also participate in setting up or in improving services for topographical mapping and has long experience in the international standardization of geographical names; in particular, those which originate in non-Roman scripts.

(e) Social development sector - The Social Development Management Branch could cooperate with HABITAT II in the execution of programme C, "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanized world," and particularly subprogramme 3, "Poverty reduction and employment creation." The Branch has a staff of 10 professionals and advisors who render advice to developing countries and countries in transition on the identification of social needs: methodologies, indicators, etc.; the formulation of social development and social welfare policies and programmes, particularly in the fields of social integration, community development, popular participation; the formulation of anti-poverty policies in the urban and rural areas; the evaluation of the social impact of economic policies; and the formulation of policies and programmes for specific sectors of the population, women, youth, and disabled.

All of the above branches are assisted by a network of consultants and experts from all over the world.

B. Division II:

The Development Policies and Planning Branch looks forward to participating actively in the following areas covered by HABITAT II: C - "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world"; D - "Capacity-building and institutional development"; and E - "International cooperation and coordination." The Branch has a staff of 17 professionals, supplemented by a network of experts and consultants. It provides advisory services and technical cooperation (including training and operation-related research) in a broad range of activities in socio-economic development planning and management. Among these are: formulating and managing economic and social development policies, programmes and plans; regional (subnational) and local planning and management; investment programming and monitoring; structural adjustment, recovery and transition programmes; budget planning and management; resource mobilization; coordinating international financial and technical assistance; computerized information systems for planning and management; long-term, short-term and operational planning; sectoral planning; environmental aspects of development planning and management; alleviation of critical poverty; women's integration in development; sustainable human development.

Further comments of DEMSD/DDSMS for possible inclusion in the Habitat Agenda

With reference to the joint DDSMS/OICC Seminar on Geographical Information Systems, City Sustainability and Environment (GIS), which is included in the calendar of events of HABITAT II, we wish to suggest the inclusion of some or all of its recommendations in the proposed "Actions" of programme 4, page 39 of the HABITAT Agenda entitled, "Technology transfer and information exchange." These include the following:

NGOs should.

- Encourage their members and their national governments to provide GI (geographical information) education, contribute to sharing of GI, and promote the use of GIS;

- Provide access to the GIS and geospatial data standards being produced globally;

- Contribute to the development of a network of GI professionals to encourage the exchange of ideas and techniques through international networks;

- Promote networking among its constituent local organizations and with other similar local organizations;

- Create a mechanism for data sharing (clearing house, metadata);

- Encourage their member cities to establish partnerships with cities using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and remote Sensing (RS) technologies.

The United Nations should:

- Collect and document GIS standards;

- Enlarge the provision of GIS expertise to their constituent members;

- Continue to sponsor GIS awareness, technology and organization impact workshops in various regions and countries of world;

- Promote sharing of GIS by requiring that geospatial data development efforts funded by the UN result in documented and accessible data sets;

- Assist in the creation of a common fund for GIS coordination efforts at regional and national levels (that could be used by these regions or nations for local coordination and GIS application promotion;

- Assist in the dissemination of publications on successful use of GIS;

-

Encourage the participation of private, national and international funding agencies to ensure that adequate financial allocations are provided for GIS application promotion in developing countries.

National Governments should:

- Assist in the promotion of "city exchange programmes" between and among nations to benefit the promotion of successful GIS enterprises. This should include the education on both the technological and institutional aspects of GIS.

- Provide documentation of projects and the use of GIS technology through common distribution channels such as the Internet or UN publications;

- Assist cities to create an "Adopt-a-developing nation' programme or use the "Sister City programme to promote successful application of GIS and use through sponsored training and technology transfer. This might include the development of multilateral, short and medium-term partnerships.

- Sponsor international workshops on the development of data-sharing standards and address what standards are needed, how they are to be developed and implemented, and who is responsible for standards maintenance.

- Provide access to data which may be useful to their GIS efforts (e.g. satellite data, DCW, etc.);

- Assist in the creation of transnational GIS networks which deals with specific thematic and regional issues;

- Vendors should adopt to industry data exchange format and explore direct reading technologies;

- Encourage and support partnerships with concerned parties in the field of GIS, with the objective of facilitating GIS enterprise funding;

- Create GIS awareness and coordination groups among different levels of government and agencies that will benefit by use of the GIS technology;

- Sponsor internal meetings and workshops that could be attended by international experts on the use of GIS technology, and issues of data collection, integration and management;

- Create national standard-setting bodies to facilitate the process of data standardization.

B. ***Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA)***
Office of the Under-Secretary General

My first suggestion will refer to para. 161 of the text focusing on "indicators, best practices and performance evaluation" in which the draft Habitat Agenda defines several activities related to monitoring the implementation of the Agenda itself. I believe that it is important that more emphasis should be given in this sector to the need for statistical data gathering and analysis. As a matter of fact, perhaps some thought should be given to having this activity mentioned separately in the Agenda in view of its central importance in developing shelter and human settlements development indicators. Technical cooperation -- in particular the quality and availability of urban statistics -- and national capacity building are other aspects of statistical data collection which could be emphasized.

As you are aware, DESIPA has focused on housing and human settlements statistics since late 1970's. The first issue of the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics was published in 1985. The second collection of data on human settlements was co-sponsored by Habitat and included sending out the Human Settlements Statistics Questionnaire to countries and areas around the world. Data collected by this questionnaire have been largely used for the preparation of the Global Report on Human Settlements by Habitat for the HABITAT II Conference and will be published in full in the Compendium of Human Settlements Statistics 1995 (now in print). In addition, the Statistics Division provided the design for several statistical wall charts on human settlements to be published in January 1996 by Habitat.

C. ***Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development (DPCSD)***
(i) ***Division for Sustainable Development***

1. The Agenda is closely linked with Chapter 7 of Agenda 21, "Promoting Sustainable Human Settlements Development". In fact, the Agenda can easily be seen as an elaboration of the main programmatic outlines of Chapter 7. The main headings and sub-headings are very similar. The Agenda is also closely tied in with Chapter 28, "Local Authorities' Initiatives in Support of Agenda 21," as well as Chapter 6 on health and several other chapters such as combatting poverty and management of land resources. In this sense, we believe there has to be very close connections between the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda.

2. The city and other structures of local government, are extremely important instrumentalities for the implementation of the outcomes of all the recent UN Conferences, from Rio to Istanbul. They provide a geographical and institutional focus for conference implementation and follow-up. Efforts should be made to help cities and organs of local government consolidate their efforts in implementing the results of the various UN conferences. A systematic scheme or organizational set-up to follow-up conference results at the local level could be an important policy recommendation of the Istanbul conference.

3. In line with the above, we believe that paragraph 12 of the Preamble, which talks about offering a "framework of principles", should make more specific reference to Agenda 21, the Rio Principles and results of the other UN Conferences. In other words, the Habitat Agenda offers a framework of principles that is in harmony with and builds upon Agenda 21, the Rio Principles and outcomes of the other UN Conferences. The present wording gives the impression of something new and unrelated to everything that has gone before. The strength of the Habitat Agenda should grow out of its interconnectedness with other agendas and principles.

4. Although paragraph 16, "Sustainable development", may have been the result of a negotiating process, we believe some amendments could be made that would enhance its comprehensibility and therefore contribute to its implementation. The first sentence from "Human Settlements [to] interdependent" could be deleted since the second sentence really covers the idea. An alternative could be to substitute the first sentence with: "the achievement of sustainable human settlements development shall be an essential contribution to the over-all goal of sustainable development".

5. In the same paragraph, it may be advisable to add "prerequisites" or "principles" "as expressed in Agenda 21" before the phrase "sustainable development" in the second sentence. It is also suggested that the sentence "Production, consumption ... while drawing upon them" be deleted. While the necessary buzz words are there, the idea which should be conveyed is well covered by the final sentence of paragraph 16.

6. On page 3, para. 10, lines 5-6: Despite the strong Platform for action that emerged from the Beijing Conference, the Habitat II Preamble devoted a minimum of attention to women. A paragraph on women that was present in the previous draft of the Preamble has been deleted. Consideration should be given to recognizing the

importance of the gender issue in the Habitat II context. The following paragraph is suggested, either for the preamble or for Page 4 under II. Goals and Principles, or for Page 9 under IV. Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation, A. Introduction:

"Of the one billion people in the world who live in unacceptable poverty, the great majority are women. Although the feminization of poverty is particularly widespread in rural areas, it is also prevalent in urban areas, particularly in urban agglomerations of the least developed parts of the world, where many women are denied their human rights, lack or are denied equal access to housing, education and vocational training, employment, economic self-sufficiency, and do not have access to appropriate health care (including reproductive health care which includes family planning) nor to equal decision-making power.

Alternative [from Beijing document, para. 58 (m)]:

"It is essential that women's human rights be protected, and that they are enabled to obtain affordable housing and access to land by, among other things, removing all obstacles to access. Special emphasis should be placed on meeting the basic social, educational and health (including reproductive health which includes family planning) needs of women, especially those living in poverty and female heads of household."

7. In paragraph 34, under Commitments, which speaks about implementing national plans of action, we believe specific mention should be made of national strategies for sustainable development as called for in Chapter 8 of Agenda 21. Plans for human settlement development should be an integral part of the overall national strategy for sustainable development.

8. On page 15, para. 64, line 2: As clarified by the Cairo and Beijing conferences, reproductive health and family planning services are essential components of "social services". We suggest adding, after "health" the following: "services including reproductive health/family planning, emergency services, etc.".

9. On page 16, para. 65: We suggest adding after (d), this new paragraph: "(e) Access to health services including reproductive health services which include family planning".

10. On page 19, para. 77 beginning on line 7, reads as follows: "Many of these trends are aggravated or accelerated by high urban fertility and the increasing magnitude of rural-to-urban migration". Suggest amending to: "Many of these trends are aggravated by high urban fertility. Although fertility rates are declining in many areas as people opt for smaller families, the need for urban family planning services in the context of reproductive health programmes, will continue to grow for some time along with the urban population, and with the increasing magnitude and permanence of rural-to-urban migration. By the year 2025, over 61 per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas. The number of people living in urban areas will have grown from 2.5 billion in 1994 to 5.1 billion in 2025. A largely urbanized world ..."

11. On page 3 para. 9, second sentence: the reference to "human-made disasters" is unclear. In order to address the "speedy solution on a durable basis" mentioned in the text, the proximate causes of those disasters should be addressed. The following text is suggested: "In the meantime the rapidly increasing number of refugees and internally displaced persons, who have left their homes in many parts of the world because of human-made disasters resulting from violence, political conflicts, ethnic strife or environmental degradation, is aggravating the shelter crisis. The need for its speedy solution on a durable basis is highlighted, and the need to address the underlying causes of such disasters is recognized".

12. In paragraph 13, under Goals and Principles, the statement about "a just, comprehensive and lasting peace," seems, in its wording, to refer to a specific situation in a specific country. The wording should be more general in nature, something to the effect that, "conditions of peace and civil tranquillity are essential to attaining these goals".

13. You asked to what extent DPCSD could contribute to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Let me state that the current text may not easily lend itself to implementation. The link between principles and action is not readily apparent from the text. Moreover there are no well defined targets that can be easily monitored. We realize that establishing such targets in an intergovernmental process at the global level is not easy. Since Habitat II addresses more concrete issue than some of the other recently held conferences, it could lend itself to more concrete and quantified targets.

14. I would only wish to highlight those areas of convergence with the implementation of Agenda 21, without being too specific on the how of "joint implementation". I would also like to recall the IACSD system of Task

Managers and the DPCSD/DSD is not an implementing body. Activities currently underway in the context of the CSD that are specifically appropriate for incorporating aspects of the Habitat Agenda are:

- work programme on changing consumption and production patterns with special focus on the "eco-efficiency" concept, applied to human settlement development, including energy efficiency, waste reduction and dematerialization and on the need for including the appropriate infrastructure for environmentally sound behaviour (e.g. for recycling, public transport, etc.) in the process of human settlements planning. After the fourth session of the CSD we may be able to focus somewhat more on the essential issue of transport (urban/rural relationship and urban transport);

- work programme on indicators where we have already achieved a high level of convergence;

- integrated coastal area management (one of the main topics for discussion at CSD-4 as part of the review of the chapter on oceans and inland seas).

15. A specific area in which we may be able to assist in implementing the Habitat Agenda is in National Reporting. As you know, we have an already well established system of national reporting in place. Rather than further duplicating this effort, we could fairly easily incorporate into our annual questionnaire, requests for information about implementation of the Habitat Agenda and then pass this information on to you after it is collected. This would save you establishing your own separate reporting structure and help to avoid having governments respond to several different organizations. Both the IACSD and various national governments have called for the streamlining of national reporting. Moveover, the other information we receive could also be helpful to you in assessing progress on implementation of the Habitat Agenda since, as noted above, many of the programme elements of Agenda 21 overlap with those of the Habitat Agenda.

(ii) Focal Point for the Promotion of Cooperatives

The Department will continue to support the contributions made by the cooperatively organized sector of national economies to the eradication of poverty, sustainable human development and sustainable human settlements, including adequate shelter for all. This will be done in close collaboration with other members of the Committee for the Promotion and Advancement of Cooperatives (COPAC): ILO, FAO, the International Cooperative Alliance, the World Council of Credit Unions, the International Federation of Agricultural Producers and the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations (IUF)."

D. ***International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) Steering Committee Working Group***

In general, they, (IDNDR Steering Committee Working Group) appreciate the present reference to disaster mitigation in the draft Habitat Agenda but do not find this enough. The most important is what we together do before, during and after the Conference. Their main concern is what visibility and what impact their involvement will have on the final outcome of the Conference.

Since the Decade is not just concerned with disaster management but strongly integrated with sustainable development and environmental resource issues, they expressed deep concern that Habitat appear more focused on disaster relief operations than on seeing disaster mitigation as part of a sustainable development process. Therefore, the IDNDR Secretariat found it "Odd" if disaster reduction - as also treated in Agenda 21, Chapter 7, section F, will not be properly presented and reflected at the Conference.

The IDNDR proposals and suggestions are strongly dependant upon cooperation and input from other agencies and donors and they generally expressed doubt that there will be enough time to organize for full participation at a high level and to the extent they had envisaged and planned for.

II. UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMMES AND OTHER BODIES

A. *Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)*
Office of the Deputy Executive Secretary

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

1. The Global Plan of Action will be the major mechanism by which the international community mobilizes international resources and creates institutional arrangements to assist countries to implement and monitor the goals of sustainable human settlements and shelter for all. To design such a mechanism it is desirable to find a way of linking the principles and commitments enunciated in sections II and III to the Global Plan of Action (section IV) so that activities defined could support the implementation of principles and fulfil commitments. The extent to which the principles and commitments are inconsistent with actions should be studied, for example, in section IV, E. In general, the linkage between principles, commitments and actions should take into account their priorities and sequence.

2. In the formulation of the draft Global Plan of Action full account should be taken of the guidance provided by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/180. In accordance with this resolution, for example, "such a plan of action should include recommendations on ways in which the role of the United Nations and existing institutional arrangements for international cooperation and coordination in human settlements can be strengthened". Unfortunately, these recommendations are neglected and remain largely declarations of intensions to develop a framework for international cooperation and establish cooperative and collaborative mechanisms.

3. The Global Plan of Action should be formulated through the dynamic of two-way communications among global, regional and national levels. The African Group, ESCAP and ECE have provided their inputs to the draft Global Plan of Action. But the draft document leaves out regional aspects which are intended to provide the fundamental spirit of the Global Plan of Action with a focus on the regional priorities, needs and problems which are unique to each regional situation.

4. As it was agreed during the first substantive session of the PrepCom for Habitat II, "statement of principles and commitments and establishment of action plans should be built on national reports and plans of action, and on inputs from United Nations regional commissions, regional banks and other appropriate organizations". Thus, the proposed format for the draft Global Plan of Action should incorporate: 1. National Plans of Action; 2. Regional Plans of Action, and 3. Global plan of Action. To our regret, the draft document fails to draw a demarcation line between global and regional actions in Section IV, E. entitled "International cooperation and coordination".

II. GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

C. PRINCIPLE: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY, COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

5. In para. 20, to delete a word "global", since there are also regional and national interests.

6. In para. 21(b), to add after a word "international" a word "regional".

7. To add a new para. to read: "To support the efforts of countries in transition in reforming the human settlements sector on the basis of the market-economy principles and their integration in the world economy".

III. COMMITMENTS

A. INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

8. In para. 43, to add after a word "global" words "regional and national".

9. Para. 44(h), should be started as follows: "monitor global and regional ...". The second word "global" should be replaced by a word "economic".

10. After para. 44(i) to add a new para. about the United nations Regional Commissions, which could read: "Promote regional programmes within the United Nations system, where the United Nations Regional Commissions will play a key role within their respective agreed mandates".

IV. GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION: STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

11. The proposal is to change the title of this part which could be read: Strategies for Policy implementation" (since the title "global plan of action" includes also parts related to the goals and commitments, it could be related only to the whole document to avoid confusion).. In reality, Report of the PrepCom for Habitat II (A/49/37), Part VII(d) notes that "The Statement of Principles and Commitments should be integrated into the Global Plan of Action".

12. As stated in "General Comments", the proposed format for the draft Global Plan of Action should incorporate actions at national, regional and global levels. Therefore, after section IV, D there should be a new section on "Actions at the Regional Level." The proposed section should focus on the following issues.

13. The United Nations Regional Commissions at the national level in providing technical and other types of assistance to member States to serve the objectives of the Conference, upon request, shall concentrate on:

(a) promoting application of the best environmental practices in human settlements planning and management;

(b) reviewing and rationalizing institutional structures to address human settlements development and shelter issues effectively;

(c) assisting in subnational area and human settlements planning;

(d) promoting experience, methodology and technology-sharing in human settlements environmental and infrastructure management on a wider scale;

(e) undertaking both basic and applied research on various critical human settlements and shelter issues;

(f) assisting in the implementation of education and training programmes;

(g) reviewing town planning legislation and building norms and regulations;

(h) promoting efficient house-building industry;

(i) developing human settlements information system;

(j) promoting different types of financial systems for shelter construction, modernization and renewal development schemes;

(k) performing such advisory services as member States of the region may desire.

14. Regional programmes to be undertaken by the United Nations Regional Commissions to meet the needs of the regions and member States should include:

(a) the establishment of a regional database;

(b) information exchange;

(c) human resources development. This could be in the form of regional training workshops, policy seminars and study visits on topics of relevance to two or more country-level programmes;

(d) the promotion of joint and comparative research in such issues as poverty alleviation, settlements planning and management and shelter development. This could take the form of: (i) comparative research by research and training institutes from the regions, focusing on a selected number of representative countries; (ii) documentation and comparison of experiences of selected countries and provision of general methodologies and policy guidelines; (iii) promotion of comparative and collaborative research in human settlements areas; (iv) promotion of active involvement of human settlements and research and training institutes from the regions, so as to build their capacity and capability for research; and (v) promotion of partnerships between research and training institutes and national and local governments, as well as NGOs

and community-based organizations;

(e) the establishment of close links with the appropriate financial institutions at the regional and global levels and with regional units of the specialized agencies;

(f) the execution of regional projects.

15. The United Nations Regional Commissions should:

(a) strengthen regional networks in the field of human settlements by which member States could exchange experience and information, provide advisory services, and organize regional training seminars and workshops, maintaining close relations with the various entities of the United Nations system;

(b) encourage actor networks to form national chapters or, if such network already exist, collaborate closely with them.

16. The preceding actions suggest that it should be a special section on actions at the global level. This section could address, for example, the following issues:

(a) to develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regulating global and regional actions as formulated in the Global Plan of Action;

(b) to follow closely the activities of the United Nations system and other international organizations and to propose ways and means by which the over-all objectives and goals of the Conference might best be achieved;

(c) to study, in the context of the Conference's recommendations new problems and solutions, particularly those of interregional or international character.

Note: The Regional Commissions will develop their Regional Plans of Action to reflect the specificities and characteristics of each region on the basis of national reports with plans of action which are to be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Conference by 1 December 1995.

E. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

17. It is proposed that text under this section should be modified, wherever applicable, to reflect a clear regional component.

18. In para. 168, to add at the end of the paragraph a phrase "... taking into account regional and national economic, social and cultural diversities".

2. Enabling international context

19. To add new paragraph to read: The United Nations Regional Commissions, within their mandates, shall:

(a) assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development of their respective regions;

(b) play a vital catalytic role in the coordination and execution of intercountry programmes and projects aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and economic integration which offer the possibility of a better use of resources and have the potential to promote accelerated and sustainable economic and social development, to solve three of the world's more compelling problems: worsening poverty, joblessness and underemployment, and the disintegration of societies.

5. Technical Cooperation

20. To add a new section under the heading "Coordination and Cooperation at the Regional Level" with the following text:

(a) When preparing regional technical cooperation programmes all relevant bodies of the United

Nations development system coordinate their work with the United Nations Regional Commissions with a view to achieving a better and more focused use of available resources, greater coherence of action and, therefore, greater and more concentrated impact on the Regional Plans of Action.

(b) Coordination and cooperation could take the form of:

(i) establishment of regional inter-organizational mechanism for coordination;

(ii) preparation of schedules of ongoing and planned regional activities so that conflicts in scheduling among the participating organizations could be avoided;

(iii) provision of an overview of regional activities and assistance of member States and associate members in identifying the relevance of the various programmes to their national plans of action;

(iv) promotion of regional trade in building materials and components;

(v) development of joint ventures for large-scale production of building materials and creation of a mechanism for common use and maintenance of scarce civil engineering equipment and machinery;

(vi) provision of support to regional institutions;

(vii) mobilization of regional financial and technical resources.

6. Institutional cooperation

21. This section should recommend an improved and strengthened framework for international and regional cooperation for implementing the outcome of the Conference.

22. With regard to the role of the United Nations, special consideration should be given to the Economic and Social Council. To this end:

(a) ECOSOC should be invited to review the mandate and agenda of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, taking into account the need for increased coordination with the Regional Commissions in implementation of the Global Plan of Action through, for example, joint thematic planning, harmonization of cycles of intergovernmental meetings concerned with human settlements.

(b) The Regional Commissions, in cooperation with the regional intergovernmental organizations and bank, should implement the Regional Plans of Action and assist ECOSOC at its request in discharging its functions within the regions in connection with global and regional actions on sustainable human settlements development and adequate shelter for all.

(c) The United Nations Development Programme must change so as to mobilize support at the local, national and regional levels for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action.

F. ASSESSING PROGRESS AND EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF THE GPA

23. In para. 190, after "the UN Commission on Human Settlements" to add a phrase "in cooperation with the UN Regional Commissions".

24. To add a new paragraph to read: "Taking into account regional differences in economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects of human settlements development, the UN Regional Commissions will develop regionally relevant housing and urban indicators of value for global and regional assessment of the human settlements situation as well as for practical use by donors and investors in particular regions and countries".

25. To add a new paragraph to read: "The United Nations Regional Commissions could convene, on a biennial basis, a meeting of intergovernmental committees to evaluate progress made towards fulfilling the Regional Plans of Action and adopt appropriate measures. The Regional Commissions should report, through the appropriate mechanisms, to the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of the meeting.

B. ***Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)***
Environment and Human Settlements Division

I. REGIONAL COMPONENT IN THE DRAFT HABITAT AGENDA

5. Mr. M. Lujanen (Finland), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Habitat II Conference made an introductory report on the state of things in regard the draft Habitat Agenda and organizational issues of the third substantive session of the Preparatory Committee. Best practices and case studies were stressed as important elements of the preparatory work for the Conference and follow-up activities in the ECE region. Reliance on local resources for human settlements development was stressed. Many countries recognized that regional component was missing in the draft Habitat Agenda. It was also reported that the time available for the informal drafting group had not made it possible to finalise the draft document in all its aspects. The result of the intersessional' work, the draft Habitat Agenda, was now under distribution as the draft final document for Habitat II Conference to be reviewed at the third session of the Preparatory Committee to take place in New York from the 5 to 16 February 1996.

6. The countries participating in the workshop exchanged views on their national preparations and preliminary assessments of the draft document Habitat Agenda as well as possible ways to stress the role of ECE cooperation and the regional component in the outcome of the Habitat II Conference.

7. In regard national preparation, the participants reported on organizational structure for the preparatory work for the Conference in their countries. Most participants reported that National Committees with representation of central and local government, non-governmental organizations, private sector were established in their countries. Several countries reported on setting up working groups in several Ministries and/or task forces to deal with specific practical issues of the national preparatory work. Woman's organizations were established in some countries to make their input to the Conference.

8. Most delegations stated that national reports had been prepared or were in the final stage of preparation. Some countries included in their reports chapters on national action plans and/or case studies and best practices examples. Some countries arranged competition for best practices in order to spread the ideas of the Conference at the local level. Many delegations stated their interest in the housing and urban indicators programme.

9. The participants observed that the draft Habitat Agenda provides a basis for further discussions at the third substantial session of the Preparatory Committee, however it still needs improvements both on substance and wording, and it could be shortened. The document fails to reflect specific characteristics regarding human settlements among different regions of the world. The provisions contained in the Agenda 21 in regard human settlements should be more accentuated in the document. Interrelation of human settlements and environmental problems should be more clearly presented in regard air pollution, the climate change process and transboundary issues. The enabling concept is not adequately elaborated and the role of market forces and non-governmental bodies should be better reflected. The document contains too many different types of declarations at the expense of practical recommendations and focused guidelines. The participants expressed a view that a smaller set of principles distinct from strategies could help the text to be focused more on the ways of achieving the goals of the Conference. Delegations stressed that specific requirements of countries in transition should be visible in the draft Habitat Agenda. Among other issues to be reflected in the document migration and the impact of man-made disasters on human settlements were mentioned.

10. The participants noted that many provisions of the draft Habitat Agenda have a special relevance to the present activities of the ECE in the field of human settlements, which the ECE could carry out after the Habitat II Conference, for example:

Adequate shelter for all

- "Integration of shelter policies with policies that will guide macroeconomic and social development and sound environmental management is a fundamental objective" (para. 45).

- "Enabling markets, the primary housing delivery mechanism, to perform their functions with efficiency is a second fundamental objective" (para. 46).

- International cooperation on these fundamental objectives will be both necessary and beneficial (para. 47).

- "A fundamental principle in formulating a realistic shelter policy is its interdependence with overall macroeconomic and social development policies" (para. 48).

- "In many countries, markets serve as the primary housing delivery mechanism and their role should, therefore, be enhanced" (para. 53).

- "Access to land is a strategic prerequisite to the provision of adequate shelter for all ... develop land information systems ..., develop appropriate cadastral systems and streamline land registration procedures ..." (paras. 55, 56(f) (i)).

- To ensure efficient land markets and the equitable and environmentally sustainable use of land ..." (para. 57).

- Mobilizing sources of finance, integration of "housing finance into the broader financial system" (para. 60).

- Promote exchange of information on innovations in housing finance (para. 63).

- Improving construction, maintenance and rehabilitation. "The potential for job creation, and other external socio-economic impacts of the construction industry should be harnessed, its impact on the environment should be minimized to an acceptable level and its contribution to overall economic growth should be exploited...." (para. 68)

Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world

- "International cooperation is both necessary and beneficial in promoting sustainable human settlements development ..." (para. 81).

- "Governments at all appropriate levels, including local authorities, with the support of the relevant international and regional institutions, should support the cities in their efforts to establish sustainable urban land-use patterns ..." (para. 84).

- "Development of integrated land information and mapping systems ..., the land market by effective legislative arrangements in order to mobilize lands with diverse juridical status" (para. 85).

- "Production and consumption of energy, especially within urban agglomerations ... represent most serious obstacles to sustainable development " (para. 100).

- Sustainable transport and communication systems (para. 102).

- Conservation and rehabilitation of historical and cultural heritage (para. 106).

- Improving urban economies, "economic development and service provision can be enhanced through improved human settlements activities such as urban renewal, construction of infrastructure ..." (para. 111).

Capacity-building and institutional development

- "Effective decentralization of responsibilities and commensurate resources to key actors that are closest and most representative of their constituencies, setting into motion a strategic urban management process rooted in a shared vision" (para. 129).

International cooperation and coordination

- "The shift from aid to trade clearly points to the need for private-sector participation and involvement in the shaping of international cooperation" (para. 144).

- "Technical and financial cooperation is a prerequisite for the development of international cooperation and coordination at the regional level" (para. 149).

- "to ensure that the international regional networks facilitate more effectively the exchange and transfer of knowledge and experience on institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks, and to disseminate best practices as sustainable urban management" (para. 153).

- UN regional commissions should support "awareness-building and information activities ..." (para. 154 (c)).

- "The Habitat Agenda constitutes a new framework for international cooperation" (para. 156).

- The UN regional commissions will contribute to "multi-disciplinary and thematic approach to research and development, focusing on the continuous monitoring and analysis of critical settlements trends and issues" and "it is essential to evaluate the impact of policies, strategies and actions on the provision of adequate shelter and the achievement of sustainable human settlements development" (paras. 160 and 161).

II. ORIENTATION OF ACTIVITIES IN THE ECE REGION, AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE CONFERENCE

11. The participants exchanged views on the orientation of future activities of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements as a follow-up to the Conference. Need to improve practical results, based on the guidelines, best practices and indicators programme was stressed.

12. The workshop agreed that there are critical differences regarding human settlements between different regions of the world, nations and within nations that need to be reflected in the draft Habitat Agenda. The UN regional commissions are well placed to monitor and support human settlements activities that are relevant to the specific situation of each region and member country. In addition, the multi-disciplinary approach needed to address specific regional issues and trends could be more effectively achieved through a regional approach.

13. The themes for the Habitat II Conference are entirely within the scope of the two priorities of the ECE Committee on Human Settlements, (a) sustainable human settlements, and (b) assistance to countries in transition. The ECE region covers a vast geographical area comprising 55 countries, some with a long tradition of market economy and others in transition from a planned to a market economy. The equal status enjoyed in the ECE by all European countries, Canada and the United States creates a good framework for a balanced multilateral cooperation.

14. Countries of the ECE region carry a great responsibility for the global ecological balance and the success of practical implementation of the sustainable development (including provisions of the Agenda 21). This required an adaptation of the existing economic models, changes in present lifestyles and consumption patterns without prejudices to the social and cultural goals and values democratically achieved. The prevailing decision making process tends to deal piecemeal with environment, economic and social aspects of human settlements issues. This separation influences the decision-making process and actions of all groups including government, industry, business and individuals.

15. Almost six years after the beginning of market reforms, most countries in transition are still confronting considerable problems in shifting their societies from state-dominated economies towards the democratic, market-based systems. Recent trends in housing production in most central and eastern European countries have been disappointing: production is much lower than demand, housing shortages have escalated. Economic hardship has reduced consumer demand, while macroeconomic measures have cut public housing construction. In view of high inflation rate, construction costs have increased considerably. For countries in transition, it is very important to succeed in housing market reforms, since improvements in the housing sector of the economy would not only meet housing requirements and improve the quality of life for the population, but it would also improve macroeconomic performance and the situation in other sectors of the economy. Improved housing conditions may also have very positive psychological effects. If people believe that they can, by their own efforts, improve their quality of life, this conviction will boost the work morale of society and, hence, the development of the national economy.

16. The ECE has accumulated considerable experience in assistance to countries in transition. In countries in transition, governments and the general public attach great value to recommendations resulting from multilateral international cooperation coming from the United Nations as a independent and neutral entity.

17. The important experiences in ECE in particular on cooperation with countries in transition deserved increased attention in the Habitat II preparatory work as well as in other fora. The secretariat should investigate innovative ways of presenting such information to wider circles of decision makers, the media and the public in general.

18. The present programme of work of ECE in the field of human settlements is based on two strategic priorities, namely (a) sustainable human settlements development, and (b) assistance to countries in transition. These priorities will remain for the future, supporting at the regional level the goals, commitments and the Habitat Agenda to be adopted at the Habitat II Conference.

19. In defining a future programme of work priority should be given only to those areas where the ECE has or can develop a competitive edge and where its activities do not risk to duplicate those of other international organizations. ECE should also take the initiative to improve coordination of human settlements related activities in the ECE region, particularly that of financial institution, NGO and private sector. Future work programme should be established with the following main criteria in mind:

- relevance to national priorities and needs;
- likelihood of achieving practical results;
- availability of related expertise and experience within ECE;
- potential for practical cooperation with NGO, international financing institutions, local authorities and the private sector;
- potential for sharing of the ECE experience and results with countries outside the ECE region.

20. The ECE activities could provide regional support for:

- Development and implementation of national human settlements policies and practices in coordination with overall national and regional sustainable development objectives covering environmental, economic and social aspects;
- Promotion of urban management to deal with such crucial issues as sustainable land-use, energy conservation, environmental protection, conservation of cultural and historical heritage;
- Development of appropriate policies to deal with such issues as international migration and population mobility within countries in the human settlements context;
- Reviewing major trends in the ecological, economic, social, technical and legislative spheres, which influence human settlements development in the region;
- Management of coastal areas; development of alternative activities focused on sustainable environmental protection, in particular where the influence of tourism on industry is strong, and provision of alternative housing and urban design solutions suitable for countries of the Mediterranean region;
- Development of practical instruments and means for accelerating the modernization of housing and housing maintenance and urban renewal in order to provide better living conditions and, at the same time, reduce the over-consumption of energy and other resources;
- Activities on cadastre and land registration systems, in such areas as: basic land management legislation, cadastral measures, land information systems and organization and management of the cadastre; with the aim at setting up efficient real estate markets and promotion of sustainable use of land, security and tenure;
- Improvement of the housing and building sector in countries in transition by means of action-oriented studies and activities as well as through regular progress assessments and consultations, improving local authorities and the private sector;

Reforms in the financial sector by developing appropriate schemes for financing housing and infrastructure investments; attention will be given to the development of affordable housing schemes and exchange of information on innovations in housing finance.

21. Selected case-studies as well as best practices will provide opportunities for understanding how different concepts are applied in similar situations, creating the basis for developing new methods for implementing new policies. Furthermore, such activities could provide ways of translating the overall principles into operational planning criteria by promoting cooperation and the exchange of experience between countries of the ECE region, that responds not only to the needs of Governments, but also helping to establish a dialogue between government institutions, local authorities, experts, academics, NGO's and the private sector, as well as to build institutional capacity and professional know-how. Continuous monitoring should be carried out to analyze change in the human settlements development within and among countries on the basis of relevant housing and urban indicators and human settlements statistics.

C. *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*
Office of the Secretary of the Commission

In order to incorporate our inputs into the report currently being prepared for submission to the Preparatory Committee at its third substantive session in New York by the Secretary General of the Conference as Conference Room Paper with proposals for "suitable and cost-effective co-ordination and co-operation mechanisms for the full participation of the United Nations agencies in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda", we are indicating our specific suggestions for the amendment of the submitted text:

(a) Under I. Preamble (page 2, paragraph 3) we would suggest to replace the submitted paragraph with the following:

3. Recognizing the global and regional nature of these issues, the international community, in convening Habitat II, has decided that a concerted approach could greatly enhance progress toward achieving these goals. The cross-national, regional and global impacts of unsustainable patterns of production and consumption of environmental, economic and social deficiencies are clearly visible. Also recognizing great differences among regions related to relevant human settlements problems and issues which favour the existence and implementation of regional commitments and Plans of Action within the framework of the Habitat Agenda, the sooner nations join their efforts for comprehensive, bold and innovative shelter and human settlements policies, the better the prospects will be for the safety, the health and the well-being of their citizens, and the brighter the outlook will be for a turn-around in the global environmental and social crisis.

and, also under I. Preamble (page 3, paragraph 11) we would suggest to include at the end of the sentence:

11. ... taking into account the specific situation of each region and country.

(b) Under II. Goals and Principles, I. International Cooperation and Co-ordination (page 5, paragraph 22) we would suggest to add at the end of the submitted paragraph the following sentence:

..]. At the regional level, the implementation of the GPA will require the formulation and improvement of existing regional commitments in order to fully interpret global guidelines and national processes.

(c) Under III. Commitments, D. Financing shelter and human settlements (page 7, paragraph 30) we would suggest to include in the sentence:

30. ...mechanisms for financing the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and regional commitments or Plans of Action, which will mobilize increased...

and, also under III. Commitments, F. Assessing progress (page 8, paragraph 35) we would suggest to add at the end of the sentence:

Regional Commission should co-operate in monitoring and evaluating the implementations of regional

commitments such as Regional Declarations or Plans of Actin and, to reformulate inappropriate commitments to co-ordinate them with the GPA and NPA.

(d) under IV. Global Plan of Action: Strategies for implementation, A. Introduction (page 9, paragraph 41) we wold suggest to add at the end of the submitted paragraph the following:

...of these measures will need to be adapted to the specific situation of each region and country.

and, also under IV. Global Plan of Action: Strategies for implementation, E. International co-operation and co-ordination, *1. Introduction* (page 37, paragraph 145) we would suggest to include within the sentence:

...allocation. These frameworks should also include enhancing co-operation at the regional level and new and improved forms of ...

and, also under IV. Global Plan of Action: Strategies for implementation, E. International co-operation and co-ordination, *5. Technical Co-operation* (page 40, paragraphs 154 (d.) and (e.) we would suggest to include within the sentences:

(d) ... within the framework of national development strategies ad regional commitments.

(e) ... UNCHS (Habitat) and the United Nations regional economic commissions, develop operational activities focusing on ...

and, also under IV. Global Plan of Action: Strategies for implementation, E. International co-operation and co-ordination, *6. Institutional co-operation* (page 40, paragraphs 156 and 157) we suggest to include within the sentence:

156. The Habitat Agenda and related regional declarations, commitments or Plans of Action constitutes a new framework for international co-operation. It should ensure and also:

157. The United Nations family of agencies, including the Bretton Woods institutions, the Regional Commissions, the regional and sub regional development banks and funds and bilateral support agencies should:

(a) through (e) and include under:

(f) Support and promote the implementation of regional commitments.

D. *Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)*
Office of the Executive Secretary

The draft HABITAT AGENDA is very comprehensive and constitutes a very pertinent Global Plan of Action. However, the regional component, is not clear and needs more emphasis. The Regional Commissions joint input has not been given the necessary emphasis. More specifically, the following modifications are proposed:

1. Under "Commitments", reference to regional action in paras. 32 and 35 can be strengthened. The last line in para. 32 may read as follows: "by the collection, analysis and dissemination of information about shelter and human settlements, and by international and regional networking." The last two lines under para. 35 may read as follows: "We further commit ourselves to the objective of enhancing the role and strengthening the institutional capacity of UNCHS (HABITAT) and the regional commissions as agencies of coordination and cooperation..."

2. Under part IV of the GPA, item E on international cooperation and coordination, an additional item is proposed under the title "regional cooperation" which may include (1) provision of support to regional institutions;
(2) mobilization of regional financial and technical resources;
(3) establishing regional networks of research and development as well as networks of NGOs; (4) establishing regional machineries for promoting exchange of experiences, best practices and technical

expertise; (5) developing regional data bases and indicators. Furthermore, this new section may include a mandate for developing, in the light of the GPA, of regional plans of action which will reflect the specificities and characteristics of each region.

3. Particular reference to the regional commissions could be introduced under para. 153 on technical cooperation and para. 161 on performance evaluation.

E. *United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*
Urban Programme Division

General Framework

Following on your facsimiles of 13 and 19 December 1995 find the Medium Term Plan drafted by the Urban Section. Within the document you will find the potential role and commitment that UNICEF's Urban Section is planning in general and vis-a-vis the Habitat Agenda. This document should be considered a general framework that is still under discussion within UNICEF and no specific or definitive commitments can be made to date.

- **Disparities need to be addressed in parallel with goal achievement:**

When advocating for disparity reduction as a new priority for UNICEF, the necessary programmatic approach consisting on a **spatial analysis of social exclusions and environmental vulnerabilities in order to allow for targeted UNICEF multi-sectorial interventions** needs to be incorporated at country and city level. In order to achieve this, **disaggregated statistics will need to be collected to detect intra-urban disparities** as represented by those exclusions and vulnerabilities. This unique analytical perspective that integrates the spatial dimension to UNICEF Programming process, will enable goal achievement and sustainment, simultaneously with disparity reduction. It would also halt the traditional widespread exclusion of urban children from the UNICEF Programmes.

- **The need to turn from successful integrated development examples into full scale programmes:**

This is another necessary programmatic approach that has been advocated for and can be implemented through the **linkage of Urban Basic Services Programmes, the Mayors Defenders of Children Initiative and the Decentralization of the National Plans of Action.** Broad partnerships for sustainable community development and community management at local level, are key to this strategy.

Additionally, several partnerships have been initiated with other agencies to address urban poverty issues, and to complement their current strategies and policies as well as to reinforce UNICEF operational activities in the field. Creating a network from which to draw support in the benefit of the urban poor, has been and will continue to be one of the main focus of the Section's activities.

- **Decentralization of the National Plans of Action (NPA):**

Additionally Local Plans of Action need to be supported and extended to a larger number of countries as a way for UNICEF to concentrate activities at a level where there is a greater opportunity for **community participation and for multi-sectoral convergence.** This new programmatic approach constitutes a clear response to the increasing global trend towards the decentralization of social policies. 50 countries are currently at varying stages of decentralizing their NPAs.

- **The need to go beyond community participation into community management with full government support:**

This approach will advance UNICEF from survival strategies into development and will enhance programme sustainability. This enhanced role for communities in the development process does not, however, exempt governments from their redistributive role. Resources external to the communities such as technologies and financial mechanisms need to be brought in to support the community's efforts. Otherwise, the goal of disparity reduction would be missed if each community could count only on its own resources.

- **The need for systemic approaches:**

In spite of the enhanced role of communities in community management, in urban areas it is even more important than in rural areas to ensure a systemic approach. Water and sanitation, land tenure, credit systems are some of the issues that can not be addressed at community level and require a holistic systemic view that can only be present in local governments.

F. *United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)*
Policy Coordination and External Relations Service

The UNCTAD secretariat has no further comments to make with regard to least developed countries and poverty alleviation. Although transfer of technology is quite fully reflected in chapter E of the Agenda, we would like to suggest that coverage be given to the question of development and dissemination of environmentally sound technologies through countries' own efforts, including developing countries, in other parts of the document which deal with policies and actions to be taken at the national level. In our view, this could be done in chapter C "Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world". In this context, we suggest including on page 19 in paragraph 77, tenth line, after the word "the environment." the words "in particular through wider development and use of environmentally sound technologies."

We should also like to suggest that, when finalizing sub-chapter 2 of chapter C - "Sustainable land use", some attention be given to the recent work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in the area of science and technology for integrated land management (E/CN.16/1995/4 of 10 March 1995).

Concerning the request for identification of programme areas where possible support could be given in the implementation of the Agenda, UNCTAD could provide cooperation in analyzing the effects of "increasing globalization of the economy", as mentioned in paragraph
38. UNCTAD could be one of the "relevant organizations" mentioned in paragraph 161 which contribute towards "analyzing and monitoring major trends of urbanization and impact of urban policies" in connection with changes in the global economic environment. Our contributions could range from genera' considerations such as the effects of changes in the global economy on urban poverty to specific issues such as the implications of international financial liberalization on housing finance in the developing countries.

G. *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*
Office of the Administrator

Our main concern is that the Global Plan of Action should become a pragmatic instrument in concert with the language and resolutions of previous Conferences, within a unified UN-system response to the challenges and opportunities posed by human settlements. We would also express the concern that the preparatory process of the GPA does not seem linked at all with the preparation of National Plans of Action. UNDP has been monitoring the national preparatory processes through our Regional Bureaux and Country Offices. We would consider providing support, in cooperation with UNCHS and other UN agencies, to the essential interface between the GPA and follow-up activities at the national level.

We were therefore surprised that the draft Global Plan of Action does not mention UNDP's potential contributions and makes little specific reference to previous Conferences' resolutions concerning follow-up action.

As you know, the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development specifically mentions that "the United Nations Development Programme should continue to undertake efforts to support the implementation of the social development programme". The General Assembly resolution 47/199 states that "the United Nations Development Programme should organize United Nations system efforts towards capacity-building at the local, national and regional levels, and should support the coordinated implementation of social development programmes through its network of field offices". The above resolution also states that coordination at the country level should be improved through the resident coordinator system.

The Platform for Action of the Beijing Conference specifically refers to "coordination of the United Nations operation activities for development at the country level should be improved through the resident coordinator system in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly". The General Assembly resolution accepting the Platform for Action does refer specifically to the work of UNDP in coordinating follow-up activities to the conference.

It is our understanding that the Habitat II Secretariat will prepare a document on inter-agency coordination, which will be the basis for a revised text of Section "F" (**Implementation and Follow-up of the Global Plan of Action**) of GPA, to be suggested by the Habitat II Secretariat as a Conference Room document to the third PrepCom. UNDP would strongly suggest that the following points should be incorporated into the documentation.

1. Given UNDP's network of 136 Resident Representatives/Resident Coordinators, 5 Regional Bureaux and the Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, and given that HABITAT II draws together an extraordinary series of UN conferences in the 1990s, UNDP will take the lead in coordinating the UN system-response to the follow up of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements.

2. Given UNDP's role as the major multisectoral agency within the UN system in building capacities within developing countries for sustainable human development (SHD) especially in poverty eradication, environmental regeneration, gender equity, employment and livelihoods and sound governance, and given the multisectoral nature of the Habitat Agenda, UNDP, in cooperation with UNCHS and the other specialized UN agencies, will support the substantive follow up of the Second UN Conference on Human Settlements.

3. In general terms, UNDP, in cooperation with UNCHS and the other specialized UN agencies, will undertake the following:

   * development of policy frameworks for sustainable human settlements including poverty eradication, gender equity, sound governance, environmental improvement and employment and livelihoods;

   * development of new programmes of technical cooperation in the multisectoral field of sustainable human settlements;

   * involvement of NGO/CBO networks, cities' associations and private sector associations in the HABITAT II follow-up;

   * coordination of international cooperation follow up activities at the country, regional and interregional/global levels;

   * resource mobilization and provision of mechanisms of cost-sharing and trust funds; and

   * strengthening existing programmes such as LIFE, the Urban Management Programme and the Public-Private Partnership Programme.

4. In specific terms, section "F" of the GPA should make reference to previous sections that presently lack the coordinated participation of the United Nations system, including UNDP, in proposed follow-up action. This applies to Section D ("capacity-building and institutional development"), paragraphs 131 item (1), 133, 135, 137, and 140; Section E ("international cooperation and coordination"), paragraphs 148, 150, 152 item (e), and 154. All the above paragraphs refer to the support of the international community for follow-up action but do not mention the UN system at all or mention only one agency within the system. UNDP, in cooperation with UNCHS and the other specialized UN agencies, will undertake the following:

   * under the Sub-section 2 on "decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks" under Section D ("capacity-building and Institutional Development"), UNDP will undertake a catalytic role, through its network of Country Offices and in cooperation with UNCHS and other specialized agencies, to involve as appropriate local authorities associations/networks of local authorities in national human settlements-related projects and programmes;

   * under Sub-section 3 on "participation, civic engagement and Government responsibility" under Section D ("capacity-building and institutional development"), UNDP will, in cooperation with UNCHS and other specialized agencies, assist with capacity building efforts aimed at the development of capacity for participatory policy-making approaches at the regional, national and local levels and the cross-fertilization of experiences, in complementarity with existing urban-related UN programmes and projects.

* under Sub-section 4 on"technology transfer and information exchange" under Section E ("international cooperation and coordination"), UNDP, through its network of Country Offices will take the lead, in cooperation with UNCHS and the other UN agencies, in disseminating replicable practices, and through its central units of TCDC, MDGD/BPPS and STAPDS and others, will support the promotion of programmes and initiatives that are conducive to improved managerial practices concerning technology alternatives for sustainable human settlements development;

* the same as above is applicable to the Sub-section 5 on "technical cooperation" under Section E ("international cooperation and coordination") in the GPA;

* under Sub-section 6 on "institutional cooperation", under Section E ("international cooperation and coordination"), UNDP will support the comprehensive UN-system response and follow-up of the recent series of UN conferences; and

* under the whole Section F on "implementation and follow up of the Global Plan of Action", UNDP will support, in cooperation with UNCHS and other specialized UN agencies, the follow up of the GPA, including all the above aspects.

We look forward to the cooperation and support of the Habitat II Secretariat in ensuring that the Statement of Principles and Commitments and Global Plan of Action fully reflects both the language and resolutions of the previous conferences and that it reiterates the need for a unified United Nations system response to the challenges and opportunities posed by human settlements.

H. *United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*
Office of the Executive Director

Introduction

The United Nations Environment Programme would like to commend the secretariat of Habitat II and the informal drafting group on the latest draft of the Habitat Agenda. UNEP is particularly pleased to see numerous references which acknowledge the strong inter-relationships between Human Settlements and the Environment and has pleasure in proposing the following additional comments.

UNEP welcomes and supports the statement in para. 45 on the need for an integrated approach to human settlements development and management, in which all social economic and environmental driving forces are taken into account. This approach fully matches UNEP's integrated programme approach, which equally has the quality of human life as its central concern. Improving and enhancing the quality of life in human settlements is part and parcel of the efforts to safeguard and improve the quality of human life in general. The Habitat Agenda strengthens and compliments the work of UNEP and others towards a development process which is sustainable and environmentally sound in the long run.

The Habitat Agenda rightly deals both with mitigating the negative impacts of human settlement activities on the environment and the more complex issue of creating a better human environment and a better quality of life. The links between poverty, equality, sustainability and livability in the context of the changing productive potential of the global ecosystem, all should be seen as a part of a process towards improving the human environment.

Creating a better human environment and a better quality of life is a problem of global dimensions. The solutions to this problem range from global to local. The sustainability of cities is as much a function of global policies on energy, economics, biodiversity, food and water security as it is of bringing about change at the local community level.

Specific comments on the text

IV. Global Plan of Action: Strategies for Implementation.

Para. 79: Second sentence.

Add "rivers, lakes,"before "aquifers".

Para. 84:

The list of actions in paragraph 84 contains no 'environmental' actions. Perhaps the first sub-paragraph (a) should contain a reference to regional planning and after "improved" should be inserted "and environmentally sound". Similarly, in sub-paragraph (4), after "improved" insert the words "and environmentally sound".

Para. 93: Second sentence.

Environmental health in only one aspect of "Environmentally sustainable and healthy human settlements". Perhaps "environmental policy" would best be qualified as "environmental health policy "to clarify the meaning.

Para. 97: First sentence:

Include the words "domestic and" before "industrial". Include a sub-paragraph.

"Seek innovative ways in which to recycle or dispose of waste and minimise the production of domestic and industrial waste".

Para. 100: A reference should be made to the impact on global warming/greenhouse gas emissions of the energy sector. A corollary is the impact on cities of global warming (ambient temperature rise, sea level rise, increase incidence of vector-borne diseases etc).

A suggested addition to paragraph 100, after "energy" is "bearing in mind that continued high levels of greenhouse gas emissions might affect the future sustainability of many cities and settlements.

If the future cities are to remain the engines of economic growth, the energy requirements to fuel such growth will be a major factor influencing their sustainability, with global implications.

Para. 154: Without commenting on the substance of the present bracketed text, UNEP wishes to point out that achieving sustainable human settlements will require further international cooperation in limiting greenhouse gas emissions, ozone layer depletion, pollution of international and transboundary waters and depletion of natural resources on which the settlements rely.

Para. 160: In addition to the activities of UNCHS and the regional economic commissions, it is probable that UNEP would provide considerable support in environmental assessment and monitoring, including activities such as GEMS/Air, GEMS/Water, land-based sources of pollution, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), climate change and the joint Sustainable Cities Programme.

Support of UNEP to the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda

As the central body within the UN system in the field of the environment, the United Nations Environment Programme's role is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment. To this end UNEP undertakes to assess the status of the environment in the world, develop and promote policies aimed at enhancing the environment and integrating environmental considerations in social and economic development, and catalyse action to achieve these goals at the international, regional and national levels.

The mandate, programme and activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) acknowledge the essential linkages among the entire range of environmental and social-economic elements of our societies. Success in realizing sustainable development and in incorporating fully the environmental dimension can only be brought about by understanding the relationship between socio-economic driving forces, environmental changes and their impact on human well-being.

UNEP programmes and activities, therefore, are particularly associated with the second goal of the Habitat Agenda - sustainable human settlement development in an urbanizing world. UNEP's contribution to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda focuses in this area.

UNEP's main contribution will be to complement the activities of UNCHS, in keeping with its mandate, in the priority areas of environmental assessment, policy and management.

All the major thrusts of UNEP's programme of work for 1996/97 are relevant and supportive to the Habitat Agenda and its implementation. Two of the subprogrammes of UNEP's Programme of Work 1996-1997 dealing with sustainable production and consumption and creating a better environment for human health and well-being however contain many activities which directly support the Habitat Agenda. In particular, the Joint UNCHS/UNEP Sustainable Cities Programme will act as an important coordination and cooperation facility and conduit.

Furthermore, through its integrated programme, UNEP is strengthening its activities in the area of:

(a) Raising awareness and building consensus on sustainable patterns of consumption and on clean production practices, including efficient use of natural resources.

(b) Mitigating land degradation which is a major root cause of rural migration.

(c) Promoting improved transportation and waste management strategies for better urban environmental planning and management.

(d) Promoting environmental practices for improved human health, with a particular emphasis on air and freshwater quality, as well as sanitation.

(e) Reducing the impact of pollution of coastal and freshwater resources.

(f) Support to the monitoring of implementation of the Habitat Agenda through UNEP's Environmental Assessment activities.

UNEP also is forging international consensus on major environmental issues, as well as fostering international cooperation to achieve agreed objectives. Through the major global and regional conventions and programmes of action it administers and/or supports, UNEP is developing and setting up facilitative and supportive mechanisms to promote and facilitate access and transfer of environmentally sound technologies to, inter alia:

(a) Improve hazardous waste management.

(b) Phase-out ozone-depleting substances.

(c) Reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and, as such, mitigate possible sea-level rise and climate change.

I. *United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)*
Inter-organization Cooperation

Further to my letter of 3 January 1996 and following consultation with colleagues concerned, I am pleased to inform you that UNHCR has, in general, no problem with the new draft Habitat Agenda resulting from the Paris meeting. The only further proposal which we would wish to make relates to paragraph 25 (h) under Commitments/Adequate shelter for all, as follows: insert the words *"refugees, returnees"* after "homeless".

J. *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)*
Office of the Executive Director

The first concern relates to the absence in the document of any general analysis of the dynamics of urban growth, including: (a) the importance of high rates of population growth within developing-country cities as well as migration fuelled by even higher growth rates of rural populations; (b) the implications for sustainable human settlements of alternative scenarios for future population growth; (c) the youthful age structure of urban populations in developing countries; (d) the historically unprecedented concentration of urban populations in mega-cities; and (e) the important social and economic implications of ongoing large movements of people between rural and urban areas. UNFPA believes that the addition of brief analyses and current data on these important dynamics at several key points in the document to be particularly important.

The second concern is the heavy emphasis put in the draft action recommendations on physical infrastructure as compared to investments in people. The group recommended that giving more explicit recognition to the social development goals (basic education, gender equity, reductions in maternal and child mortality, universal access to

reproduction health care) recently agreed to at other important international meeting of the United Nations, would strengthen the document,

As both these two major population concerns have not yet been incorporated in the draft document, we would like to take this opportunity to suggest that they be incorporated in the document to be debated at the Third Preparatory Committee of the Habitat II Conference.

Regarding the specific programme areas which UNFPA may wish to pursue, in coordination and cooperation with other United Nations agencies, towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, two types of activities maybe mentioned. The first would be in the area of poverty alleviation and eradication through suitable reproductive health programmes, including family planning and sexual health. The second would concern research into linkages between population, migration and urban growth and their implications for human settlements.

I. MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Preferably in paragraph 6 of the Preamble, add the following new paragraphs on the dynamics of urban growth after the words "will live and work in urban areas." (line 3)

By the year 2005, more than half the world's populations will live in cities. In ten years, the number of large cities with more than a million people will increase from 213 to 321, and the majority will be in the developing world. Almost unique to urban growth in the late 20th Century is the emergence of massive urban agglomerations with populations of over 10 million people. Of the world's 14 such mega-cities, 11 are now in the developing world; thirteen more will emerge in the next 20 years, all in the developing world.

Investments in fields important to the eradication of urban poverty, such as basic education, health care, sanitation, drinking water, housing, and transportation for rapidly growing populations, continue to strain economies and limit policy options. The unusually high number of young people in urban populations in the developing world further increases pressures on housing and social services and requires that productive jobs be created for a continually growing urban labour force under conditions of already widespread unemployment.

Although rural to urban migration contributes importantly to urban growth, the growth of urban populations is preponderantly a reflection of the growth of the world's total population, which increases by one billion people every eleven years. Over 95 per cent of future population growth will occur in developing countries and almost three-quarters of that increase will occur in cities and towns. Although future population increases are inevitable, the difference between the United Nation's high and low projections, a difference of 720 million people over the next 20 years, has important implications for the goal of sustainable urban development.

Data from "World Urbanization Prospects, 1994 Revision, United Nations Population Division, 1995. Text adapted from ICPD Programme of Action, 1.4, 1.10 and 3.15.

2. In paragraph 4 of the Preamble, Habitat II has now been linked to the previous UN conferences by incorporating the old paragraph 73. To strengthen and build upon the consensus reached at these important conferences, substitute the following language after the words "must be dealt with" (line 5).

In addition, the World Summit for World Children in 1990, established a number of important goals for children's health and education which will be critical to socially sustainable urban development. The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 set the course for a new global commitment to civic engagement and recognized for the first time women's rights as human rights. The International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994 produced a new global consensus on the relevance of population factors to sustained economic growth and sustainable human development and on the specific actions needed over the next 20 years to facilitate early population stabilization. The World Summit for Social Development in 1995 further highlighted the need for additional investments in human resources and for greater attention to employment creation as a prerequisite to poverty alleviation. Finally, the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace has broken substantial new ground on equality of opportunity for all people. All of these international agreements have a direct bearing on the prospects for sustainable urban development and their goals should be incorporated into strategies to create livable human settlements.

At the places indicated, add the following language concerning social development:

3. Paragraph 25, subparagraph (h) add after the words "promoting shelter and basic services".
, including municipal services and essential social services

4. Paragraph 27, after sub-paragraph (a) add this new paragraph:

(b) implement the social development goals already agreed to by the international community in the areas of basic education, maternal and child health, reproductive and sexual health and gender equity.

Note: the current subparagraphs 27(b) through 27(i) then becomes 27(c) through 27(j).

5. Paragraph 65, sub-paragraph (d) add after the words "equitable allocation of social services",

such social services should address at the local level the goals endorsed by international conferences. The goals of universal access to basic education, primary health including comprehensive reproductive and sexual health care, and specific reductions of in fact, child and maternal mortality must be given appropriate priority.

II. EDITORIAL SUGGESTIONS

At the paragraphs indicated, add, insert or substitute as follows:

Paragraph 8:
After the word "new approaches to "(line 4) add moderating population growth and

Paragraph 18:
Between the words "basic" and "services" (line 3) insert municipal and social

Paragraph 16:
After the words "They should" (line 5) add be demographically sustainable and

Paragraph 16:
After the words "sustain human life" (line 9) add

and shall recognize the right of all women and men to self-determination and self-fulfilment

Paragraph 27:
Add an additional sub-paragraph

(c) moderate population pressure through greater investments in education and health, including reproduction health, and in other measures to ensure greater gender equity.

Note: The current sub-paragraphs 27(b) through 27(i) become 27(d) to 27 (k).

Paragraph 29:
Add an additional sub-paragraph

(c) support local initiatives at the local municipal, community, private sector and NGO level for improving living conditions and improve social services.

Note: The current sub-paragraph 29(c) through 29(f) become 29(d) to 29(g).

Paragraph 37:
Add after the words "come to live in cities" (line 2)

Where some three-quarters of future population growth will occur. In the early 1990s approximately half of the Governments of the world, mostly those of developing countries, considered the patterns of population distribution in their territories to be unsatisfactory and wished to modify them. A key issue was the rapid growth of urban areas. The United Nations estimates that during the period 1975-85 somewhere between 750 million and one billion persons migrated from rural to urban, urban to rural and urban to urban settings, making migration between human settlements a defining characteristic of the late 20th Century.

Paragraph 45:
Add at the end of the paragraph (line 6)

> , as are polices to achieve early population stabilization through improved family planning and family health services, expanded education, especially for girls, and greater equality of economic opportunity for women.

Paragraph 76:
Change the words "demographic growth and migration" (line 5) to natural population increase and net migration.

Paragraph 82:
Add after the words "balanced development include" (line 7) polices to moderate population growth or too rapid redistribution.

Paragraph 87:
Add after sub-paragraph (b):

> (c) provide universal access to basic education for all school-aged boys and girls, and close the gender gap in education through the secondary school level;
>
> (d) provide universal access to family planning and related reproductive health services;
>
> (e) reduce in fact, child and maternal mortality rate significantly over the next 20 years, in line with the internationally agreed goals.

Paragraph 89:
Add additional sub-paragraph (b):

> Promote the productivity of human resources through basic health and education services for all.

Note: current sub-paragraphs 89(b) through 89(g) become 89(c) through 89(h).

Paragraph 109:
Add after "in the urban areas" (Line 3)

> Over the next several decades, as many jobs will need to be created as now currently exist throughout the world. Most of these jobs will need to be created in cities, and the magnitude of new economic activity implied has important implications for the environmental health of cities and surrounding areas.

paragraph 116:
Add in sub-paragraph (b) after "social programmes and expenditures"

> , including essential education and health services.

K. *United Nations University*
Institute of Advanced Studies

Sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world (pg 19)

It is understandable why the draft is focusing on urban development problems in developing countries (paragraph 77). However, it should be noted that urban poverty, unemployment, rising crime rates and other socio-economic problems also pose tremendous problems in the cities of industrialized countries as well. It may be appropriate to highlight these socio-economic issues as problems of the developed countries as well.

• Sustainable Energy Use, Transport, and Communication Systems (pg 24-25)

Role of new technologies (particularly innovative green technologies) should be given more attention in the sections on sustainable energy use, transportation, and communication systems. One way to highlight this issue is to examine the future impact of a modern transportation system on global environmental sustainability. Presently, the transportation sector of industrialized countries consumes around 30% of the total energy requirement to support an automobile-based society while the percentage for large developing countries like China and India are only 5% as they

are still in an early stage of automobile usage. It is clear that it is going to take a new and innovative energy and transportation system to achieve the goals of further urban development and environmental sustainability.

• **Improving Urban Economies (pg 27)**

Trends of globalization as reflected in the changing international division of labour and the world production system should be more explicitly stated as the major factor behind the structural change of the world city system. Cities in industrialized countries are losing their competitive edge in the manufacturing sector to urban centres in newly industrializing economies, particularly those in the Pacific Asia. On the other hand, globalization of the production system is also creating a very competitive market system that marginalizes weaker urban economies in Latin America, Africa, and in other developing economies with strong protectionist industrial policies.

L. ***United Nations Volunteers***
Office of the Executive Coordinator

First we would like to congratulate your team for carrying out excellent work despite considerable pressure from many quarters. We are very pleased that the current version of the document retains the **Goals and Principles** on Partnerships, *Solidarity, Civic Engagement and Government Responsibility* that were reflected in the first draft. We would have liked it if these had an even stronger influence on the subsequent sections on **Commitments and Strategies and Implementation**. We do appreciate the good work that has gone into articulating the commitment on *Enablement* which provides the base to the **Strategies for Implementation**. "Supporting people to work with each other in their own communities to determine the collective future they want, to decide on priorities for action, to identify and allocate resources fairly, to build partnerships to achieve common goals and to ensure that goals are consistent with basic principles" sums up well a fundamental strategy of the UNV programme - to "enable" volunteer contributions.

The current draft of the HABITAT Agenda has benefitted from the inputs of a wide range of partners. Perhaps as a result it is not so easy to read or as coherent as the first draft document produced by the HABITAT II Secretariat. You know our views on the importance of recognizing the volunteer contributions to **Sustainable Human Settlements** and **Adequate Shelter for All**. We do hope that we will succeed in effectively communicating this important point such that volunteers and volunteer contributions will be appropriately reflected in the document. Also, the introduction of conventions could probably benefit the document. For example, one that would eliminate the need to spell out all the various levels of government each time they are mentioned and again when the various partners of civil society are mentioned, we may wish to adopt the term "Civil Society Actors". This would allow us to avoid the complication of inconsistent listing and at the same time cut down on the number of words. Of course, the original definition of this last term would make specific reference to volunteers.

During the PrepCom, we hope to explore with other participants the possibility of adopting a simple clear cut document be readily accessible and understood. Under this "minimalist approach" - the complex issues that we strive to address in the current draft could be dealt with in annexes and by cross-referencing the relevant prior UN documents, Agenda 21 etc. In this way we could benefit from the work that has already been carried out and set a new precedent for simplicity in UN Documents. We can but try!

As you are aware, we are presently working on a brief to be circulated at the PrepCom on the orientation of UNV involvement in the follow-up to HABITAT II. This will be an input into the draft of our strategic approach for the next four year period - **Strategy 2000**, currently under preparation. In the meantime in order that you can include the main elements in the document that will address coordination and cooperation within the UN system, we hope that you will find the following text useful:

1. Given the fundamental need to place people at the centre of development, and given the proven scope and scale of volunteer contributions in ensuring Sustainable Human Settlements; in its unique position as the volunteer arm of the United nations, the United Nations Volunteers programme will work actively to support the implementation of the **Habitat Agenda** and the follow-up to the HABITAT II conference.

2. The UN Volunteers programme will therefore expand its action to stimulate and support volunteer contributions at international, national and local levels, in support to vulnerable groups, and with a specific view to capacity building to combat poverty. Reinforcing UN Volunteers **partnerships** with Civil Society Actors, public and private sectors will be fundamental to this work. (cf. Section IV.D. A/CONF.165/PC.3/4.)

3. The United Nations Volunteers programme will further strengthen its collaboration with the wide range of actors

working in the field of shelter and sustainable human settlements. Given the role of UNCHS as Secretariat to the Human Settlements Commission and the policy and programme dimensions of its work, UNV will reinforce collaboration with UNCHS. Also UNV, given its special link with UNDP, will work to further demonstrate the efficacy of volunteer contributions and strengthen collaboration with initiatives such as the Urban Management Programme and LIFE. The UN Volunteers programme will work with other UN System partners such as the World Bank, UNICEF and ILO in these same directions. (cf. Section IV.EA/CONF.165/PC.3/4).

[The reference will have to be adjusted in keeping with the final text.]

M. ***World Food Programme (WFP)***
Policy and Public Affairs Division

I. The Agenda clearly recognizes that "eradication of poverty is essential for sustainable human settlements and for preserving peace." WFP is convinced that eradication of poverty cannot happen unless some of the basic impediments to poverty eradication, such as hunger, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy, are tackled up-front. These impediments are not just manifestations of poverty; they are also causes of poverty.

Hunger afflicts over 800 million people; these people also constitute the bulk of the target population of the Habitat Agenda. The Agenda might call, even more strongly, for affirmative action from the international community, national governments and civil society to address the problems of hunger, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy as a necessary pre-condition for its faster realization.

In consequence, we suggest the following three modifications to the present text of the Draft Statement of Principles and Commitments and Global Action Plan.

(1) - para. 15 (Chapter II-Goals and Principles; sub-section B-Eradication of Poverty) to read as (modifications are highlighted):

> "Eradication of poverty is essential for sustainable human settlements and preserving peace. The principle of poverty eradication is based on the objective of meeting basic needs of low-income groups within human settlements, and on the goal of full, productive and freely chosen employment and work. **The processes of poverty alleviation recognize that hunger, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy are not just manifestations of poverty but that they are also causes of poverty.**"

(2)- para. 29 (Chapter III-Commitments; Section C-Entablement) Add the following sentence after sub-section (f)

> **"(g) Undertaking affirmative action to eliminate hunger, malnutrition, disease and illiteracy which are constraints to proper development of human settlements and shelter."**

(3) - para. 31 (Chapter III-Commitments; Section D-Financing shelter and human settlements): Add the following sub-section after the present sub-section (g):

> **"(h) utilizing, where appropriate, food transfers given to food insecure communities as food for work to build community assets such as roads, health and sanitation facilities and supply of potable water."**

II. I refer now to your second question on WFP's capacity and priority interests in supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The policies governing the use of WFP food aid are oriented towards the objective of eradicating hunger and poverty. In refugee and other emergency situations food aid is used to save lives, but is used in a way as developmentally relevant as possible. Food aid is also used as a pre-investment in human resources; and to help build assets and promote the self-reliance of poor people and communities, particularly through labour intensive work programmes. Inevitably, WFP projects are concentrated in the rural sector. However, urban hunger and poverty have also attracted WFP assistance. For example, the urban basic services project in Maputo (Mozambique) came up as a response to a collapse of the peri-urban infrastructure consequent to a civil conflict. Our urban project in Lusaka (the PUSH project - which won HABITAT runner-up award in 1992) involved women's participation in the provision of sanitation facilities.

We would continue to work in urban areas where food aid has a comparative advantage. As in the past, such projects would be supportive of the objectives of HABITAT.

III. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

A. *International Labour Organization (ILO)*
Development and Technical Cooperation Department

The ILO is pleased to note major improvements in the current draft of the Habitat Agenda following the Informal Drafting Group Meeting in Paris in October 1995. Largely as a result of the Drafting Group meeting, new wording has been introduced which gives more prominence to the issues of urban poverty and employment in Habitat II. Key changes adopted by the Drafting Group which the ILO fully supports include the following:

1. Specific recognition is given right from the beginning of the Habitat Agenda to the *centrality of the issue of urban unemployment for the world's cities*. Whereas in the previous version of the preamble unemployment was not mentioned at all in the litany of problems, "lack of employment opportunities" is now the first in a long list of "the most serious problems confronting cities worldwide". Furthermore, the last paragraph of the Preamble now reads: "The Habitat Agenda issues a global call to action. It offers, within a framework of principles and commitments, a positive vision of sustainable human settlements - where all women and men have adequate shelter, productive and freely chosen employment, a healthy and safe environment and access to basic services. The Global Plan of Action will guide efforts to turn the vision into reality."

2. In Part II, a new "goal and principle" on the **Eradication of Poverty** was introduced with the following wording: "Eradication of poverty is essential for sustainable human settlements and for preserving peace. The principle of poverty eradication is based on the objective of meeting the basic needs of low-income groups within human settlements, and on the goal of full, productive and freely-chosen employment and work." The goal of employment creation is introduced here based on wording from ILO Employment Policy Convention 122 and from the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. The Governments of China and Sudan, and more generally the Africa and Arab States group, strongly supported including Eradication of Poverty as a specific goal and principle of Habitat II.

3. Part IV, the Global Plan of Action, focused on the two main themes of Habitat II, namely, "Adequate Shelter for All," and "Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World". Under the second theme, two sub-sections deal with employment issues, namely, sub-section 3. on "Poverty reduction and employment creation," and sub-section 8 on "Improving urban economies".

4. Regarding the sub-section on "Poverty reduction and employment creation", a completely revised para. 86 was drafted based on wording from the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, and once again, with specific wording reflecting ILO's international labour standards and ILO's mandate.

   The heading of this section has been changed from "Poverty reduction and equity" to "Poverty reduction and employment creation," thereby creating a specific section of the Global Plan of Action focusing on employment. The lead para. for this section then reads as follows:

   > "Promoting equitable, socially viable and stable human settlements is conditioned on reducing and eventually eradicating poverty. The eradication of poverty requires universal access to economic opportunities that will promote sustainable livelihood through freely chosen productive employment and work, and basic social services, as well as special efforts to facilitate such access for the disadvantaged. No universal solution can be found for global application. Rather, people living in poverty must be empowered through organization and participation in all aspects of political, economic and social life. Key elements of a poverty reduction strategy include: policies geared to more equitable distribution of wealth and income; provision of social protection for those who cannot support themselves; human resource development; improved infrastructural facilities; and comprehensive provision for the basic need of all."

   Under the same section, in para. 89, a number of technical fields relating to ILO's mandate are mentioned (informal sector, labour-intensive infrastructure investment policies, cooperatives, etc.), *including specific recognition of the role of workers and employers organizations.*

5. The sub-section on "Improving urban economies," begins (para. 109) by linking a diversified economic base with a capability of generating employment opportunities. Paragraph 113 makes explicit reference to the role of labour unions, chambers of commerce, industry, including the cooperative sector, in providing productive

employment. Enterprise development, including the informal sector, is also highlighted.

Para. 114 underlines the importance of programmes to strengthen vocational training in support of small, micro-enterprise and cooperative sectors. Also, text specifically recognizing ILO's international labour standards, has been included in para. 114, including reference to conventions on *"freedom of association, discrimination, forced labour and child labour."*

Additional proposed changes to the Habitat Agenda

The following further comments fall within three categories: 1. Comment which related to specific substantive questions which fall within ILO's mandate and area of expertise, 2. Comments in which ILO has strong interest, but which require complementary inputs from other specialized UN institutions (for example, questions of human rights, freedom from discrimination and equal access), and 3. Comments of an editing nature which are mean to improve clarity, constituency and to avoid contractions.

I. GOALS AND PRINCIPLES

The ILO has particular interest in the Goals and Principles of Equality, Eradication of Poverty, Sustainable Development and Partnerships.

Recognizing the dangers of further extending this list, the would nevertheless propose that Productive and Freely Chosen Employment and Work be introduced as a specific goal and principle, in recognition of its importance to the Habitat Agenda, and to the two themes of Adequate Shelter for All and Sustainable Human Settlements in an Urbanizing World.

Para. 14: Equality: There continues to be some inconsistency wherever grounds are mentioned on which discrimination shall not be allowed. The paragraph (no 14) concerning equality in the chapter which sets out overall goals and principles should not be limited to mentioning sex and age, in particular since another paragraph in the Agenda - rightly - mentions a number of other grounds.

A helpful approach might be to seek guidance in discrimination provisions contained in UN instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 2) and the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Article 2) and the ILO Convention on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation)(Article 1), while keeping some grounds already agreed upon in the previous drafts.

We would, therefore, propose that the phrase "women and men, children and youth" be replaced with *"irrespective of sex, age, race, family, social origin, national extraction, religion, political opinion or other status"*. Also replace the word "livelihood" with *"employment."*

Para. 15: Rewrite to read as follows "full, productive, remunerative and freely-chosen employment and work."

Para. 20: Specific mention should be made of employers and workers organizations, including trade unions, under the Goal and Principle of Partnership. It is suggested to modify the final sentence to read as follows: These processes can be strengthened by increased effectiveness of civil organization, as well as by active participation of employers' and workers' organizations.

II. COMMITMENTS

Para. 25 (g): Change to read as follows: *Eradicating inequality in access to shelter which is based on sex, age, race, family, social origin, national extraction, religion, political opinion or other status.*

III. GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION

In para. 58, we would propose threat "the equitable access to land, especially by women," be exchanged for "the equal access to land of women and men".

In para. 59, a first sub-para. should read:

"Review legal and regulatory frameworks to promote the eradication of inequalities in access to land and security of tenure which is based on sex, age, race, family, social origin, national extraction, religion, political opinion or other status."

Para. 65:In order to correct the lack of attention to the workplace as an element of shelter in the Habitat Agenda, add a new point (g) to read as follows:

(g) The provision and maintenance of adequate, safe, healthy and productive workplaces.

Para. 89: Include the word "youth" as follows: "for the urban poor, women and youth in particular;"

Section IV.C.8: Improving urban economies:
This section should, in our opinion, better reflect concerns and the need for action with regard to employment and vocational training policy, social dialogue in the field of employment and the maintenance of safe and healthy working conditions. In view of the advanced stage of the present draft, we have chosen not to suggest any amendments of the present paragraphs, but instead to compose two additional ones which we propose be added after the current paragraph III:

"With a view to stimulating economic growth and development, raising levels of living, meeting manpower requirements and overcoming unemployment and underemployment within the city population, active policies for the promotion of full, productive and freely chosen employment need to be designed. Such policies should include the development of human resources."

"In a rapidly growing urban employment market, measures must be taken to create and maintain safe and healthy working conditions. Particular efforts should be made to prevent abusive practices such as forced labour and child labour. For this purpose, a productive dialogue between representatives of workers, employers and local or national Governments needs to be promoted. In this, guidance should be sought in the relevant conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization."

This should be reflected in the Actions with a paragraph which we propose be inserted after the current paragraph 113:

"To reconcile the availability of employment with the demand therefor and the aspirations of the population, Governments at all levels should, in full consultation with representatives of workers and employers and other persons concerned:

(a) develop and implement active employment policies to promote full, productive and freely chosen employment and the development of human resources within the city population."

Para.126: Add a new point (g), based on ILO Convention (No. 174) and Recommendation (No. 181) concerning the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents, 1993, reading as follows:

(g) Take all appropriate measures for the Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents.

Para. 130: Rewrite as follows: "Management development and continuous training, including vocational training and retraining, are necessary at all levels."

Para. 153: This important paragraph should be redrafted to emphasize better that technical cooperation will be required from a wide range of UN agencies and entities. A possible redrafting of the final two sentences might include the following
modifications:

One of the mechanisms for promoting international cooperation...

and

New international... created and all relevant entities within the UN system should provide appropriate support and technical cooperation within their mandates in a coordinated and efficient manner.

Statement of Capacity, Priority Interests and Commitments of the International Labour Organization for the Follow up and Implementation of the Habitat Agenda

The expansion of productive employment is central to the achievement of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world. The International Labour Organization's mandate, tripartite structures and expertise in the field of employment and social development is explicitly recognized in The Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Furthermore, the ILO is responsible for mobilizing the UN system for country-level follow-up in the area of full employment and sustainable livelihoods. Within this framework, the ILO will coordinate and support concrete action at the policy and programme levels for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda with regards to the expansion and protection of employment and work.

Although the goal and principle of full, productive and freely chosen employment cuts across the whole of the Habitat Agenda, the ILO will focus its support to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in partnership with national governments, workers and employers organizations and the international community, to those sections treating *Poverty reduction and employment creation* and *Improving urban economies*. In particular, ILO's role in supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda will take into consideration its expertise and comparative advantage in the following fields:

- promotion of competitive and sustainable small, medium and microenterprises, as well as cooperatives and other community-based organizations;
- improvement of incomes, productivity through human resource development and social protection in the informal sector;
- balanced policies for expansion and protection of employment in both rural and urban areas, with due regard to the linkages between migration and employment;
- the development of tripartite participation of governments and representative organizations of employers and workers, including associations of the informal sector;
- enlarging sustainable and socially protected employment and income earning opportunities for women and enhancing women's organizational capability and bargaining power at all levels;
- optimizing the impact of shelter-related investment programmes on employment creation and poverty alleviation, including the labour-intensive shelter delivery systems;
- combatting discrimination and ensuring equal access to employment irrespective of sex, age, race, family, social origin, national extraction, religion, political opinion or other status;
- improving working conditions and environment, and ensuring safe, productive and healthy workplaces within strategies for sustainable shelter development; and
- promoting the application of international labour Conventions and Recommendations relating to all of the above.

In order to provide operational follow up to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the framework of employment creation and poverty reduction, the ILO will be, inter alia, an active partner in a joint UN interagency Urban Poverty Partnership initiative.

Towards a New Paradigm for International Cooperation

The urban world has arrived. For many regions of the world, well over half of the population is already in urban areas, whereas for the other regions, urbanization is growing at alarming rates. The international community has the challenge of developing a new strategy of international cooperation, for turning the urban crisis into cities of hope. International solidarity is required to avoid the urban crisis of others, becoming our own. The world's cities are our cities: we all share the future of urban employment. To back up this strategy, political commitment as well as true alliances at the local level are essential. We call upon the International Labour Organization, "because of its mandate, tripartite structure and the expertise", to play a leading role in the follow-up to the employment-related aspects of the Habitat Agenda.

Additional Complementary Remarks

1. The most important impression from reading the document is that it takes an "integrationist" approach to cultural and other diversity, making only nods to the idea of pluralism within a country. Several times the idea of equal access to land, integration into the national economy and other such ideas appear. Another example, referred to below, is the idea of land "property". All this reflects a very 1970s idea of rural development, in which the ideal to be sought is one big, integrated and homogeneous nation. This is taken up again below.

2. Another general comment is that the introductory materials (including in particular the preamble) speak of urbanization as the principal focus of what follows - and then happily that does not materialise as the overriding concern that it is advertised as. The agenda itself seems to be well balanced between the needs of urban and rural populations.

3. Para. 25 (b). The idea in this sub-para. is deceptively simple, but may work against the interests of those who already occupy the land - especially indigenous and tribal peoples, and especially if they do not already have title, as many do not. Some notion of protection of the rights of disadvantaged groups who occupy the land already,should be added, as it does not appear anyway in the document. See especially Article 14 of the Convention No. 169 which reads as follows:

> 1. The rights of ownership and possession of the peoples concerned over the lands which they traditionally occupy shall be recognized. In addition, measures shall be taken in appropriate cases to safeguard the right of the peoples concerned to use lands not exclusively occupied by them, but to which they have traditionally had access for their subsistence and traditional activities. Particular attention shall be paid to the situation of nomadic peoples and shifting cultivators in this respect.
>
> 2. Governments shall take steps as necessary to identify the lands which the peoples concerned traditionally occupy, and to guarantee effective protection of their rights of ownership and possession.
>
> 3. Adequate procedures shall be established within the national legal system to resolve land claims by the peoples concerned.

4. Para. 25 (g). Eradicating discrimination is good, but discrimination is an active term. The concept of eradicating inequality in access should be added, as this is the result of past discrimination or simply of exclusion. "Indigenous groups" should be replaced by "indigenous and tribal peoples" throughout the agenda. And refugees should be added to this list, as they are later in the agenda.

5. Para. 29 (b). Experience has shown that decentralizing authority where land titling and access are concerned is the most destructive possible policy for increasing access to land, as local landowners will then dominate the process and exclude the poor. this is a concept that is fashionable in some political circles in some countries, but should be mitigated at least to the extent of adding the notion of "within guidelines established on a national basis guaranteeing fair treatment" or something of this kind. Also, the idea of participation of affected groups in decision-making, which is taken up, much later, should be incorporated already in these first few paragraphs.

6. Para. 54 (c). Property rights are not the only land rights. There is also the right of usufruct, the concept of shared rights or right of access (particularly for nomadic peoples or shifting cultivators), and other concepts that have to be explored. It should be recalled that unqualified ownership, or property rights, often results in vulnerable groups' losing the lands they once owned.

7. Para. 58.Sub-para.(e) should be moved earlier in the paragraph, as it is a condition *sine qua non* to other achievements, and is easily achieved if the commitment is there. Sub-para.(f) should cover beyond husbands' death - what if they simply leave?

8. Para. 73. In (b), the idea should be enlarged to extending the application of laws and regulations. The reason for this is that many laws, and in particular labour laws, simply do not apply to the agricultural sector. In (d), the reference should be to Conventions adopted by the United Nations system, not just by the UN itself - this proposal may be supported by later references to ILO Conventions.

9. Para. 74(c) is strangely worded: what are "special" living facilities? In so far as this refers to ethnic, religious or indigenous groups, it ought to speak of "culturally appropriate" living facilities.

10. Para. 90(f). Should not this read "disaggregate" data?

11. Para. 97(g). is a much more limited idea - as it speaks of "major" development plans and projects - than the requirements in Convention No. 169 that impact studies need to be carried out when they might affect the peoples living in those areas.

12. Paras. 106 and 107. No mention is made of the spiritual and cultural heritage of indigenous and tribal peoples, and the need to protect their sacred sites from outside interference.

13. Paras. 112 and 113. The reference should be to trade unions and not labour unions; and a reference should be added to employers' organizations. Also in para. 113, it is mentioned that: "... chambers of commerce, industry, trade" will be consulted by governments in order to provide opportunities for productive employment and private investment. Considering that in many countries there are several employers' organizations, including Chambers of Commerce and Industry, perhaps that phrase could be changed to "employers' organizations".

14. Para. 119(a). While this idea is laudable, it may also be seen as integrationist and incompatible with traditional economic activities. Reference could be made to Article 23 (1) of C.169, which provides:

> Handicraft, rural and community-based industries, and subsistence economies and traditional activities of the peoples concerned, such as hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering, shall be recognised as important factors in the maintenance of their cultures and in their economic self-reliance and development. Governments shall, with participation of these peoples and whenever appropriate, ensure that these activities are strengthened and promoted.

B. *United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)*
Human Resources, Enterprise and Private Sector Development Division

Industrial competitiveness and productivity in an increasingly globalizing economy can be achieved if all enabling conditions for industrial development are considered jointly. This is a key requirement both for the competitiveness of export-oriented enterprises and also for competitive local and domestic enterprise growth, as well as in the long run for sustainable urban development. By focusing on cities, UNIDO can develop an integrated and strategic approach to industrial development.

Seven programmatic subject matters will in the 1996-97 biennium constitute the thematic focus of UNIDO in its role as a worldwide forum for supporting and promoting industrial development and as a provider of integrated technical cooperation services. The table below shows how these themes relate to specific items in the Global Plan of Action (GPA) and gives examples of what a typical UNIDO response might be.

UNIDO Programmatic Themes, Urban Issues and Examples of UNIDO's Response

Programmatic Theme	Corresponding GPA Item	Example of UNIDO's response
1. Strategies, policies and institution-building for global economic integration	* Establish a regulatory framework and provide institutional support for facilitating participation and partnership arrangements; * Develop efficient,equitable and buoyant sources of national and local revenue; * Provide incentives and penalties to promote the use of clean production processes and technologies; * Promote policies and systems that coordinate and encourage the adequate supply of key inputs required for the construction of housing and infrastructure	• Policy advice and implementation; • Interactive policy formulation; • Support for SMEs and micro-enterprises; • HRD for industry; • Information and research
2. Environment and energy	* Encourage the development of environmentally sound and affordable construction activities and building materials production; * Promote energy efficient building materials; * Minimize greenhouse gas emissions from industry; * Promote clean production technologies; * Encourage waste reduction and management; * Encourage and promote the dissemination of new energy technologies and best practices	• Efficiency in building materials and shelter construction • Clean production technologies; • Recycling and treatment of industrial waste; • Training

3. Small and medium enterprises, policies, networking and basic technical support	* Promote equitable job creation; * Institutionalize and strengthen programs that integrate finance, vocational training and technology transfer programs in support of small businesses and micro-enterprises; * Encourage and support small scale local building materials industries; * Offer opportunities for city-specific economic activities, supporting new and emerging businesses, helping small and medium sized enterprises, including the informal sector; * Strengthening technical infrastructure	• Support for SMEs and micro-enterprises; • HAD for industry; • Policy advice and implementation; • Sub-contracting systems; • Women in industry
4. Innovation, productivity and quality for international competitiveness	* Promote, regulate and enforce use-efficient and low-polluting technologies, including fuel-efficient engine and emissions and alternative fuels and energy sources; * Review and revise building codes and regulations based on current standards of engineering, building and planning practices; * Reformulate and adopt building standards and by-laws to promote and permit the use of low-cost building materials; * Set environmental standards for the selection of technologies and their appropriate use	• Technical assistance in quality control and standardization; • Technology transfer; • Information and research; • Training
5. Industrial information, investment and technology promotion	* Intensify and support research efforts to find substitutes for or optimize the use of non-renewable resources, particularly fossil fuels, reducing their polluting effects and paying special attention to recycling and re-use of waste; * Encourage and promote the dissemination of new energy technologies and best practices; * Promote information exchange and flow of appropriate, environmentally friendly technologies and facilitate the transfer of technology; * Encourage and support research and development of innovative building materials production; * Promote and disseminate information on disaster-resistant construction methods and technologies for buildings and public works	• Investment promotion; • Information and research; • Networking among cities; • Natural disaster relief; • Promotion of appropriate building materials and construction techniques; • Emergency shelter; • ETCDC
6. Rural industrial development	* Stimulate rural development by enhancing employment opportunities and strengthening technical infrastructure; * Encourage use of industrial and agricultural wastes and other types of low-energy and recycled building materials	• Rural industrial development; • Promotion and dissemination of labour-intensive technologies for the production of building materials; • Interactive policy formulation; • Support for SMEs and micro-enterprises

7. Africa and least developed countries: linking industry with agriculture	* Eliminate environmentally harmful subsidies, e.g. those stimulating the excessive use of pesticides and price controls that perpetuate sustainable practices and production systems in rural and agricultural economies; * Promote enterprises development, productive investment, industrial technology transfer and expanded access to open and dynamic markets for sustainable human settlements development; * Ensure that the process of technology transfer is fair and avoids dumping of environmentally unsound technologies on the recipients	• Rural industrial development; • Support for SMEs and micro-enterprises; • Technical assistance to the food; processing industry • Expert group meetings; • Policy advice and implementation

Horizontal priority programs of UNIDO, such as HAD, private sector development, ETCDC (economic and technical cooperation among developing countries), and the integration of women are not explicitly included among the seven themes. Rather, they permeate and support all themes. An elaboration of each of the seven priority themes in terms of their substantive component programs and key activities planned by UNIDO for implementation in the next biennium is given in UNIDO document IDB. 14/13, 199.

C. *Universal Postal Union (UPU)*
Office of the Deputy Director-General

The UPU's comments concern chapter C, Section C, paragraph 102 -105, on page 25 of the Global Plan of Action: Strategies for implementation. This part of the document deals with sustainable transport and communications systems.

Considering a growing importance of communications facilities and infrastructures comprising among others railways, telecommunications and posts for promoting sustainable development of modern societies and its impact on a steady improvement of urban quality of life (economies in particular), I believe that a special mention of this should be reflected in an appropriate manner in the Habitat Agenda.

D. *World Health Organization (WHO)*
Division of Operational Support in Environmental Health

The WHO involvement is guided by the global importance of health issues, the linkage of those issues to sustainable human settlements, the close relationship between public health and basic urban services and, underlying all, the need to place people at the centre of development. The "WHO Global Strategy for Health and Environment", approved by the World Health Assembly in 1993, provides the organization-wide framework for activities related to human settlements. The following sectoral services of the organization have specific mandates for various components of the Global Plan of Action (GPA):

1. The Programme for the Promotion of Environmental Health includes in its urban and rural environmental health agenda the WHO Healthy Cities Programme with regional and national networks of Healthy Cities, and a comprehensive environmental pollution management component dealing with air, water and other environmental pollution issues.

Contributions are made to the following GPA components:

- Ensuring access to basic infrastructure and services; actions listed in para. 65.
- Environmentally sustainable and healthy human settlements; actions listed in paras. 96, 97 and 98.
- Balanced development of settlements in rural areas; actions listed in paras. 119 and 122.
- decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and their associations/networks; actions listed in para. 131.
- Participation, civic engagement and Government responsibility; actions listed in para. 135.

2. The Programme for the Strengthening of Health Services provides for the development of urban and rural health care facilities related to the GPA component on ensuring access to basic infrastructure and services: actions listed in para. 65.

3. The WHO Programme on Violence and Health contributes to the GPA component on combatting violence and crime: actions listed in para. 91.

4. The Programme of Emergency and Humanitarian Action is actively involved in the GPA component on disaster prevention, preparedness and post-disaster rehabilitation capabilities; actions listed in para. 128.

The involvement of WHO in the implementation of the GPA is effected through its headquarters, regional and country offices which are all covering the above indicated GPA components.

E. *World Meteorological Organization (WMO)*
World Climate Applications Division

In general WMO would have preferred a more focused writing in parts of the GPA, especially as it relates to the important aspects of the physical environment in the evolving conurbations and its impact on the urban populations. WMO is satisfied that the revised version of the GPA includes reference to most of the issues that fall within the mandate of WMO. However, with reference to the ongoing work with implementation of the Framework Convention on Climate Change and the related statement by the WMO Cg-XII in June 1995, it seems relevant to "***State more clearly the role of urbanization as a major contributor to the increasing emissions of Green House Gases***". It is suggested that references to this could be included in the "Preamble, e.g. in para. 3 or 6. It may also be appropriate to refer to this in the introduction in part IV, e.g. in para. 38 in relation to "globalization".

Indirectly this role of urbanization in global climate is related to in several paragraphs e.g. in paras 94, 97, 99, 100 and 101. However, it needs to be further emphasized, e.g. by inserting in *para. 100*, after "...natural environment.": "*In particular, these areas of intensive use of energy, contribute both directly and indirectly to the emissions of green house gases and consequently to the threats of global climate change.*"

Another aspect which would warrant *more focused writing relates to the urban hydrology issues*. It should be noted that the agreed theme for the World Water Day, 22 March, is "Water for Thirsty Cities". However, it is expected that the outcome from the Workshop on urban Water Problems, to be held in Beijing in March 1996, will be considered in the final text of the GPA.

WMO, being the specialized agency within the United Nations system, provides an informed, authoritative and scientific voice for meteorology, including climatology, operational hydrology and related environmental sciences. It is thus imperative that WMO commit itself to implement, within its area of competence, relevant parts of the Habitat Agenda. In particular this relates to considering ways of strengthening and adjusting activities and programmes in line with the Habitat Agenda. WMO Twelfth Congress, which met in June 1995, emphasized these aspects:

"Congress noted that the urban environment issue has become one of the most important within the overall context of global change and development of response strategies. It was noted that urbanization was a major contributor to the increasing emissions of greenhouse gases due to its relatively intense use of energy and that the rapidly growing populations in many urban areas were most vulnerable to the impact of climate and climate change. Congress therefore considered that meteorological and climatological aspects in the urban environment should receive increased attention within WMO Programmes and emphasized the need for WCASP to promote further the development of related applications and services."